

# KONG

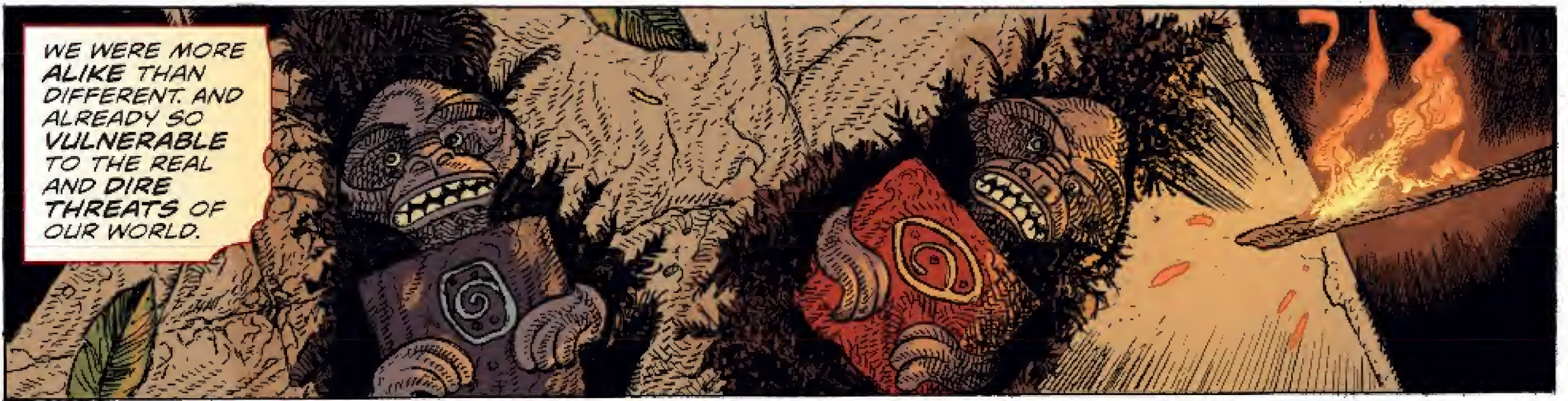
## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON

NO. 1 OF 6  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS







WE WERE MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT, AND ALREADY SO VULNERABLE TO THE REAL AND DIRE THREATS OF OUR WORLD.



BUT WE ALLOWED OURSELVES TO BE TORN APART, PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER--

--INSTEAD OF PREPARING TO FACE THE HORRORS THAT AWAITED US.



PERHAPS WE HAD ALLOWED OURSELVES TO BECOME TOO DISTRACTED TO SEE WHAT WAS COMING...

HOLD!

WHAT IS THIS?!

YOU DEFILE THE FAMILY SEAL OF THE TAGU KING?!



PLEASE--NO NEED TO HARASS THESE PEOPLE IN MY NAME.

AS YOU SAY, KING, MY APOLOGIES.

WE MAY OBSERVE DIFFERENT RITUALS, BUT WE RESPECT THE ATU TRADITIONS.



WE ALL HOPE FOR A THRILLING EXHIBITION TODAY!

SO PLEASE--MAKE YOUR OFFERING! EMBOLDEN YOUR GLADIATORS!

UNLEASH YOUR--









NO NEED TO WORRY, MY LOVE.

IT IS NATURAL FOR THE KONG TO FIGHT. TO DETERMINE RANK.

A THOUSAND YEARS OF TRAINING, SELECTIVE BREEDING-- THEY STILL HAVE ANIMAL IMPULSES. BUT THEY ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO KNOW WHERE TO AIM THOSE URGES.



YES!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, VALLA? IF FER'RAH CONTINUES FIGHTING LIKE THAT--

--HAVE WE FINALLY FOUND YOU A MATE?



OFFERINGS!

WHO AMONG YOU WILL SACRIFICE TO GAIN THE GODS' FAVOR FOR OUR KONG?



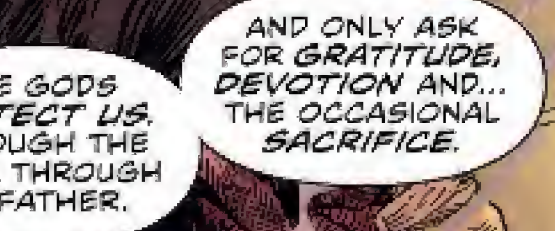
HMM... THIS PIECE IS BEAUTIFUL.

SURELY THEY WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH A GIFT MORE THAN BERRIES?

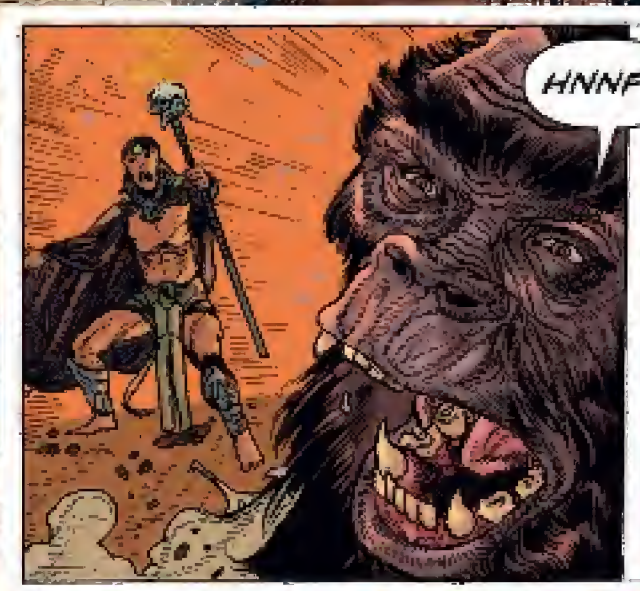


USANA, I...

THE GODS PROTECT US THROUGH THE KONG. THROUGH MY FATHER.



AND ONLY ASK FOR GRATITUDE, DEVOTION AND... THE OCCASIONAL SACRIFICE.



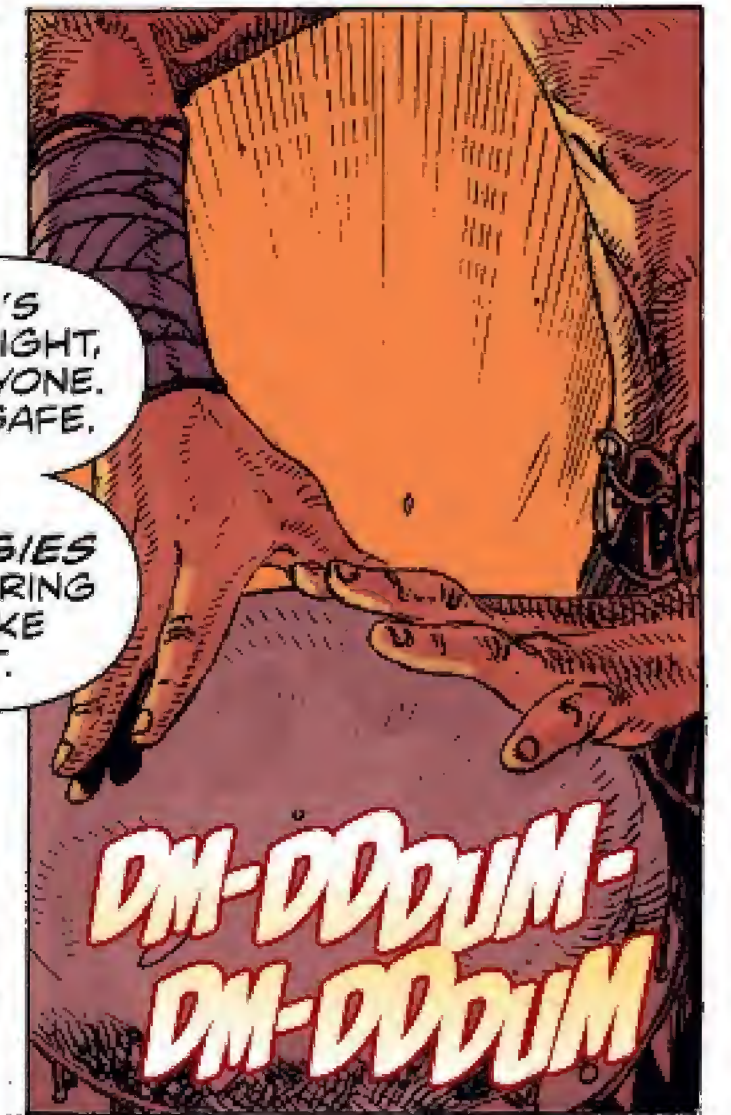
HNNF?



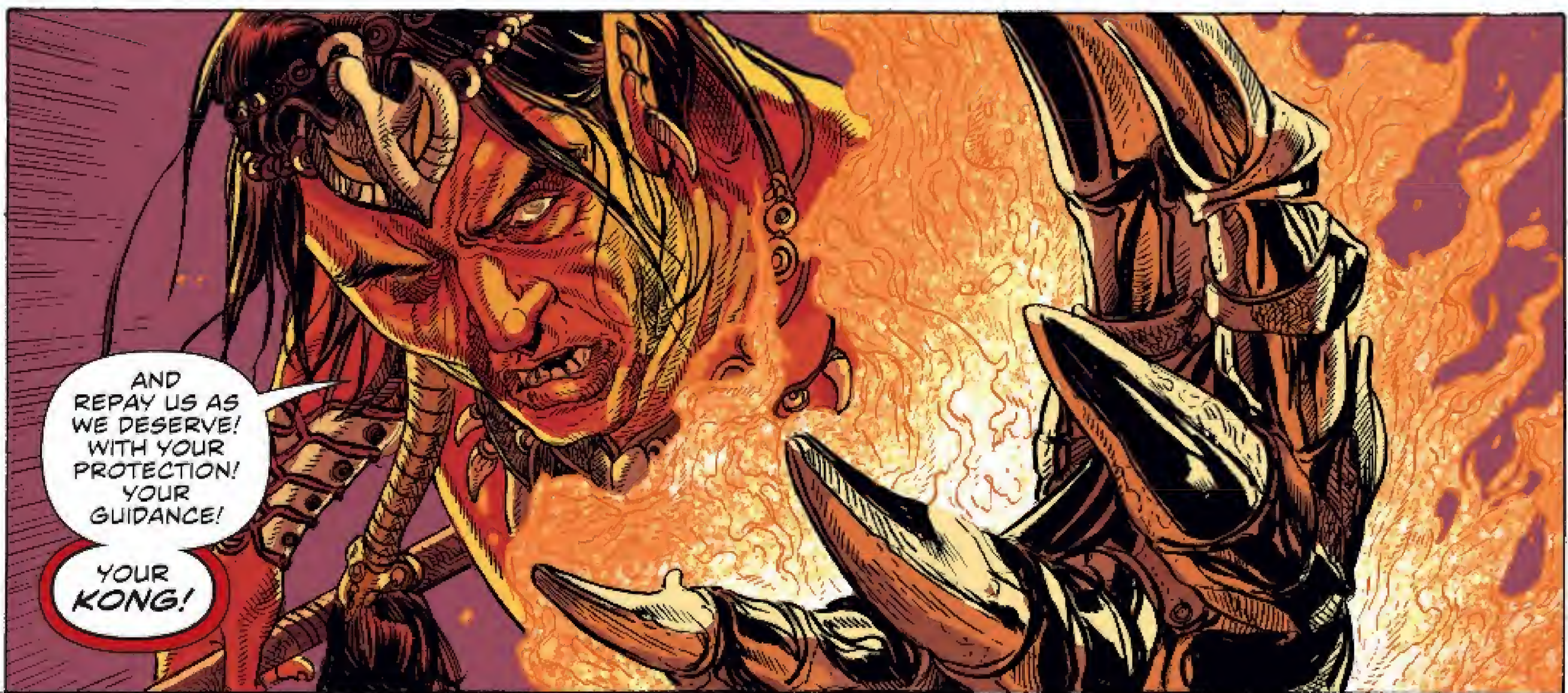
FRESH!















BREATHE.  
IT'S OVER.

AND  
YOU MADE  
US ALL  
PROUD.



EVERYTHING  
PACKED?

AND  
ROLLING  
OUT!

GOOD!  
STILL A  
QUARTER-DAY'S  
SAIL TO THE  
FEEDING  
LANDS--

--AND YOU  
ALL WORKED  
UP QUITE AN  
APPETITE!



AND WHO LOOKS  
OUT FOR THE GREAT  
TAGU KONG  
TRAINER? IS SHE  
HUNGRY?

OR...  
THIRSTY?

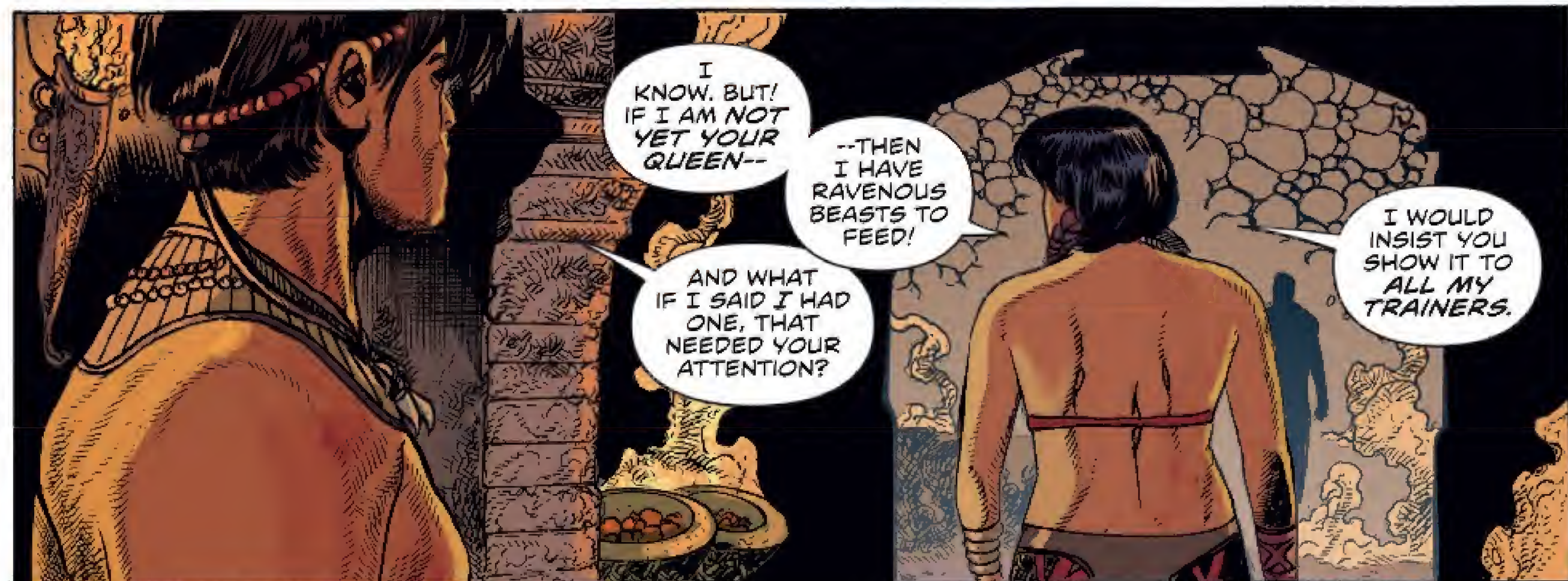


HNNN...  
I-I SHOULD  
GO.

OH? COULD  
YOU PERSUADE  
HIM TO LET US  
HAVE A  
CEREMONY?

IF YOU WOULD  
RATHER NOT...  
I HAVE *SOME*  
INFLUENCE WITH  
THE KING.

WHEN HE IS  
READY FOR ME  
TO ASCEND--



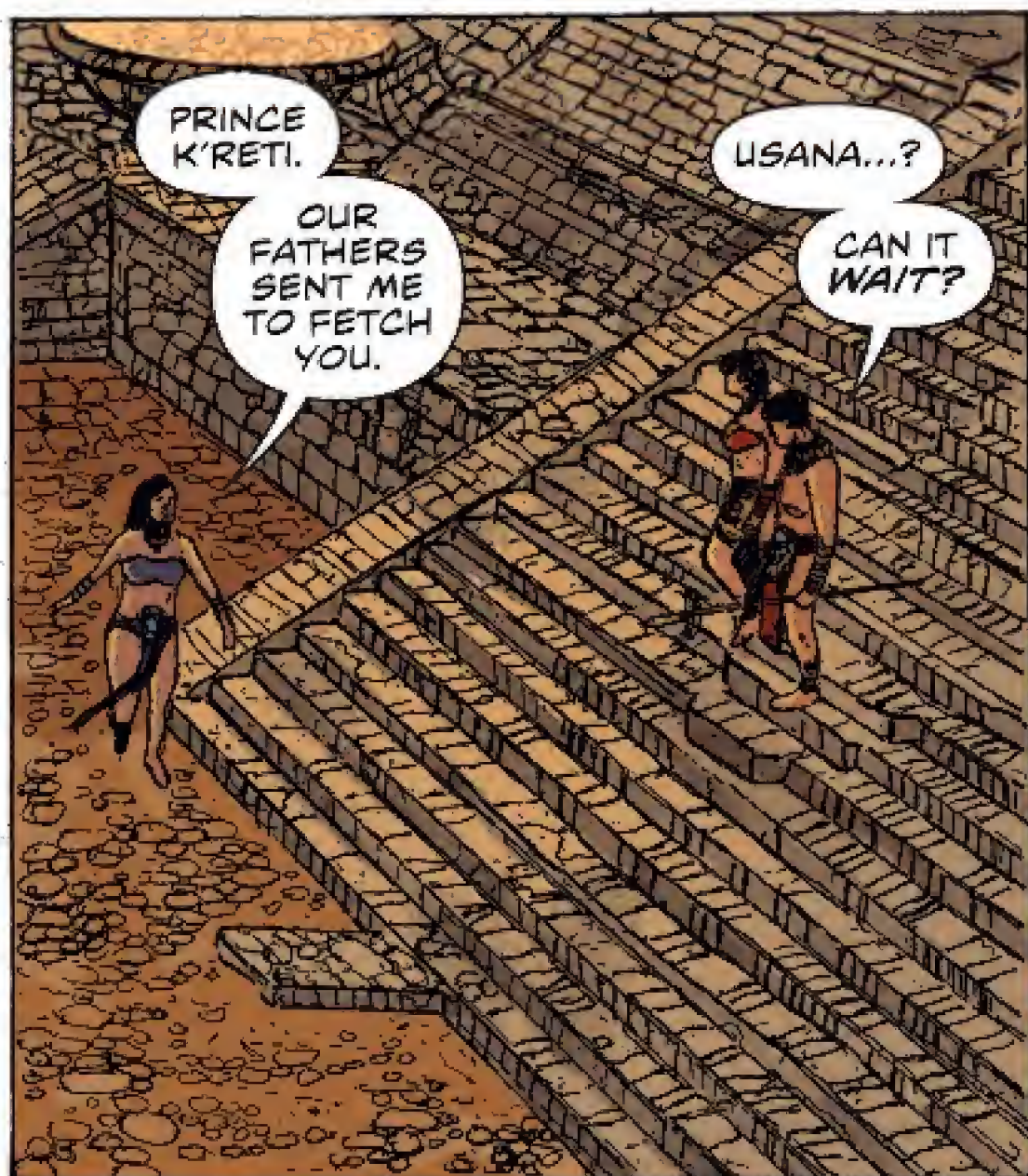
I  
KNOW. BUT!  
IF I AM NOT  
YET YOUR  
QUEEN--

--THEN  
I HAVE  
RAVENOUS  
BEASTS TO  
FEED!

AND WHAT  
IF I SAID I HAD  
ONE, THAT  
NEEDED YOUR  
ATTENTION?

I WOULD  
INSIST YOU  
SHOW IT TO  
ALL MY  
TRAINERS.





PRINCE K'RETI.

OUR FATHERS SENT ME TO FETCH YOU.

USANA...?

CAN IT WAIT?



YOUR ADVISORS AND MY FATHER'S SEERS ARE MEETING AT THE GREAT MOUTH. URGENTLY.

SORRY TO--

NO WORRY. GO TO YOUR FATHER.

WE CAN TALK WHEN I RETURN.



SO, YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOUR APES.

HMM...

THOUGH, IF YOU TAUGHT HIM TO FEAR YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING--YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM CAVING TO ANIMAL IMPULSES.



MAYBE, BUT I STILL PREFER MUTUAL RESPECT.

A FEARFUL ANIMAL HAS NO THOUGHT FOR RESPECT. FEAR REDUCES EVERY CREATURE TO ITS BASE INSTINCT. ATU TEACH AND CONTROL WHAT TO FEAR.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THINGS SCARIER THAN YOU OUT THERE. BUT WITH RESPECT, COMES LOVE. FEAR ONLY DICTATES WHAT WE RUN FROM--

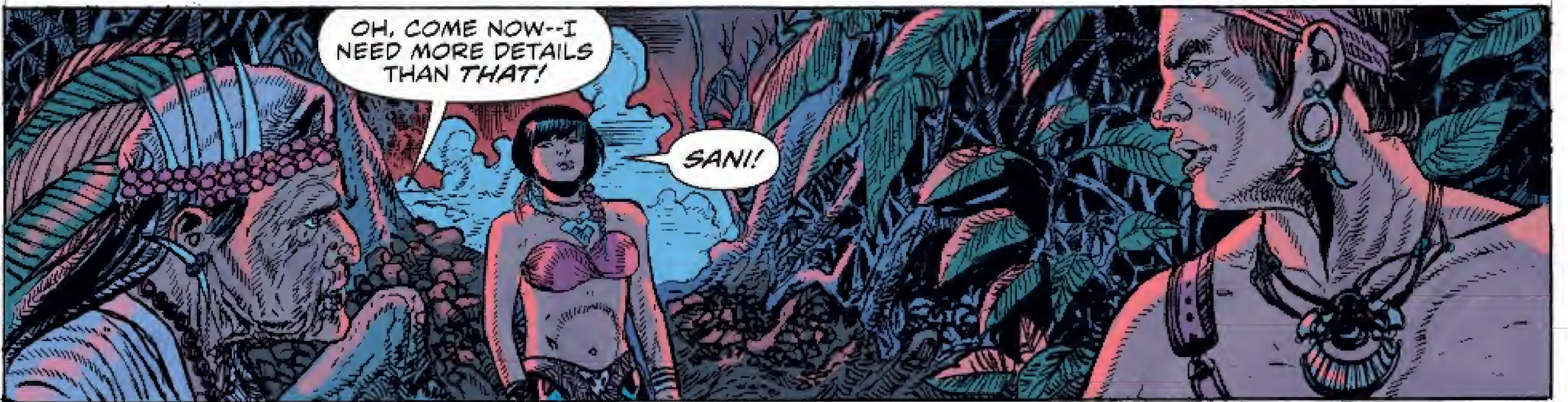


--LOVE DETERMINES WHAT WE FIGHT FOR.



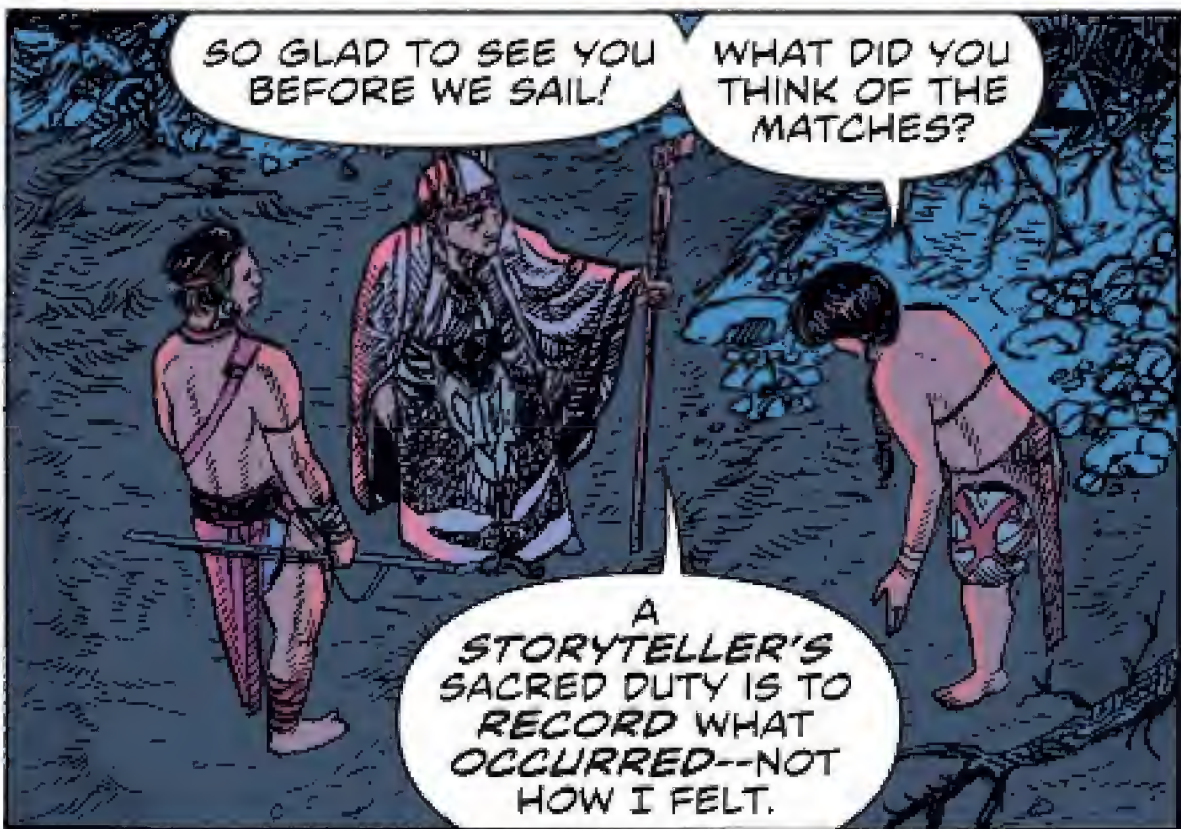


--FINAL FIGHT WAS LESS DRAMATIC, BUT STILL IMPRESSIVE.



OH, COME NOW--I NEED MORE DETAILS THAN THAT!

SANI!



SO GLAD TO SEE YOU BEFORE WE SAIL!

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE MATCHES?

A STORYTELLER'S SACRED DUTY IS TO RECORD WHAT OCCURRED--NOT HOW I FELT.



BUT AS YOUR FRIEND, I WAS VERY PROUD AND IMPRESSED.



STILL...HISTORY WILL SHOW THE KONGS I TRAIN ALL LOST THIS SEASON.

I EXPECT HISTORY WILL RECOUNT LONG AND REMARKABLE BATTLES THAT WERE NARROWLY DECIDED.



SNFF  
SNFF

HGRRRRR





AYE! CALM YOUR APES, I ONLY JUMPED DOWN TO HEAR WHAT THE GIRL WAS ABOUT TO ACCUSE US OF.

TO A STORYTELLER, NO LESS!

ALAS, WE WILL NEVER KNOW. FOR I WAS ABOUT TO ASK WHY ATU GORGE THEIR KONG ON OUR ISLAND'S PRECIOUS LIMITED RESOURCES--

--WHILE THE TAGU PEOPLE MUST SAIL FOR GREENER GRAZING-- JUST TO ENSURE THERE WILL STILL BE ENOUGH HERE FOR THE PEOPLE?!



OH--NO NEED FOR A STORYTELLER.

YOUR ANCESTORS WERE SIMPLY TOO LAZY TO CLAIM THESE FIELDS FIRST.



YOU SIT IN COMFORT AND ACCUSE OTHERS OF LAZINESS?!

TAGU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WORK HARDER FOR GENERATIONS!

CRAFTING SHIPS LARGE ENOUGH TO CARRY KONG AND CREW TO OTHER ISLANDS! CULLING FOOD AND RESOURCES THERE TO AVOID PICKING OUR HOME BARE!



MBETI, IGNORE HIM--

YOU WILL NOT SWAY HIS THINKING.

ENJOY YOUR FRUIT AND YOUR GODS, GRET.

WE'LL BE SAILING THE GREAT OCEAN!



TFFF...

NO CHANCE YOU IGNORE THAT IN YOUR ACCOUNTS?

NOT WITH MY VOWS AS THEY ARE, NO.

BUT I COULD SAIL WITH YOU AND RECORD YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON TODAY.

...OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU PREFER?

TEMPTING. BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LET GRET AIR HIS BILE. OR HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ACCUSE THE WORLD OF BIAS.

HA. YOU WILL MAKE A JUST QUEEN ONE DAY, EWATA.





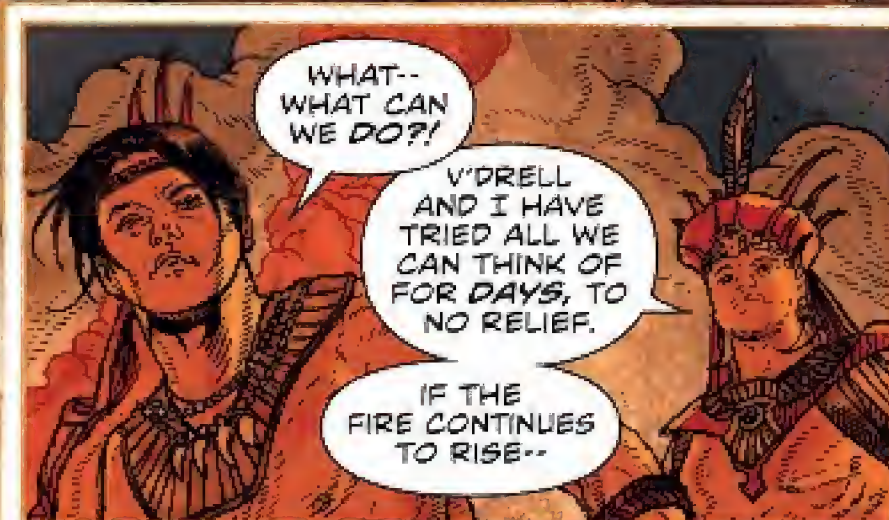
MY  
APOLOGY  
FOR KEEPING  
YOU WAITING.  
BUT...

...WHAT IS  
THIS?

OUR  
SCHOLARS HAVE  
BEEN WATCHING  
THE GREAT  
MOUTH.

IT IS RISING--  
AND GROWING  
FAR, FAR MORE  
VOLATILE.

WE FEAR  
THE GODS...  
MAY BE  
ANGRY.



WHAT--  
WHAT CAN  
WE DO?!

V'DRELL  
AND I HAVE  
TRIED ALL WE  
CAN THINK OF  
FOR DAYS, TO  
NO RELIEF.

IF THE  
FIRE CONTINUES  
TO RISE--



WE NEED  
YOUR  
SHIPS.

IF ONE OF  
THE GODS SEES  
FIT TO CLEANSE  
THIS ISLAND--THOSE  
BOATS COULD CARRY  
BOTH OUR TRIBES.

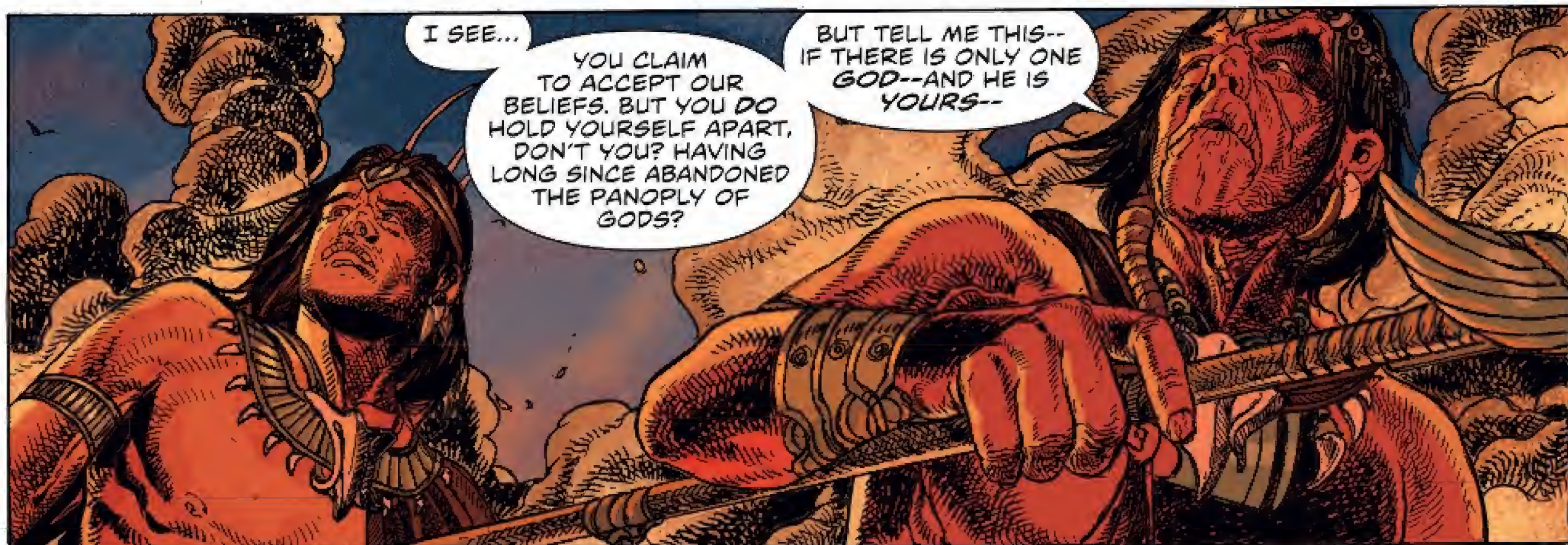
NOT ALL  
AT ONCE! AND  
CERTAINLY NOT  
IF WE MAKE  
ROOM FOR THE  
KONG.



TAGU SWEAT TO BUILD THOSE  
SHIPS. THEY REPRESENT OUR  
CONTINUED LABOR AND SCAVENGING  
TO ENSURE OUR FAMILIES HAVE  
ENOUGH TO EAT.

DO YOU SUGGEST I  
MAKE THEM WAIT ON A  
BURNING ROCK SO  
THAT YOUR PEOPLE  
REAP THE SAFETY OF  
OUR LABOR?

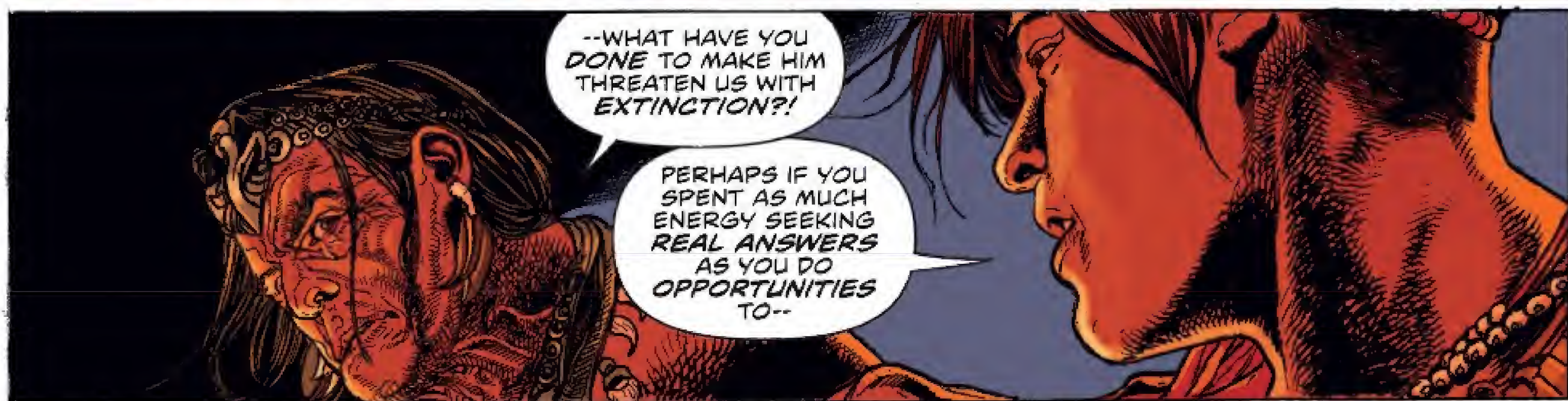




I SEE...

YOU CLAIM  
TO ACCEPT OUR  
BELIEFS. BUT YOU DO  
HOLD YOURSELF APART,  
DON'T YOU? HAVING  
LONG SINCE ABANDONED  
THE PANOPLY OF  
GODS?

BUT TELL ME THIS--  
IF THERE IS ONLY ONE  
GOD--AND HE IS  
YOURS--



--WHAT HAVE YOU  
DONE TO MAKE HIM  
THREATEN US WITH  
EXTINCTION?!

PERHAPS IF YOU  
SPENT AS MUCH  
ENERGY SEEKING  
REAL ANSWERS  
AS YOU DO  
OPPORTUNITIES  
TO--



PRINCE K'RETI,  
PLEASE.

YOU AND  
MY FATHER  
ARE BOTH  
SHAKEN.

BUT, DIVIDED  
AS WE MAY BE IN  
OUR IDEAS, OUR  
TRIBES ARE  
STILL OF ONE  
BLOOD.



THANK YOU,  
DAUGHTER. ANY  
PREPARATIONS  
WILL BE TRYING  
ENOUGH.

THERE WILL NATURALLY BE  
PANIC AND VOLATILITY WHEN  
WE TELL OUR PEOPLE. IF  
THERE WERE EVER A TIME TO  
DEMONSTRATE **STRENGTH**  
AND **UNITY** BETWEEN  
US...

MY DEEPEST  
APOLOGIES. OF  
COURSE, YOU  
ARE RIGHT.

AND, IN FACT...  
IF WE WISH THE  
TAGU AND ATU TO SEE  
THEMSELVES AS **ONE**  
**PEOPLE** AS WE ENTER  
THIS DARK HOUR--

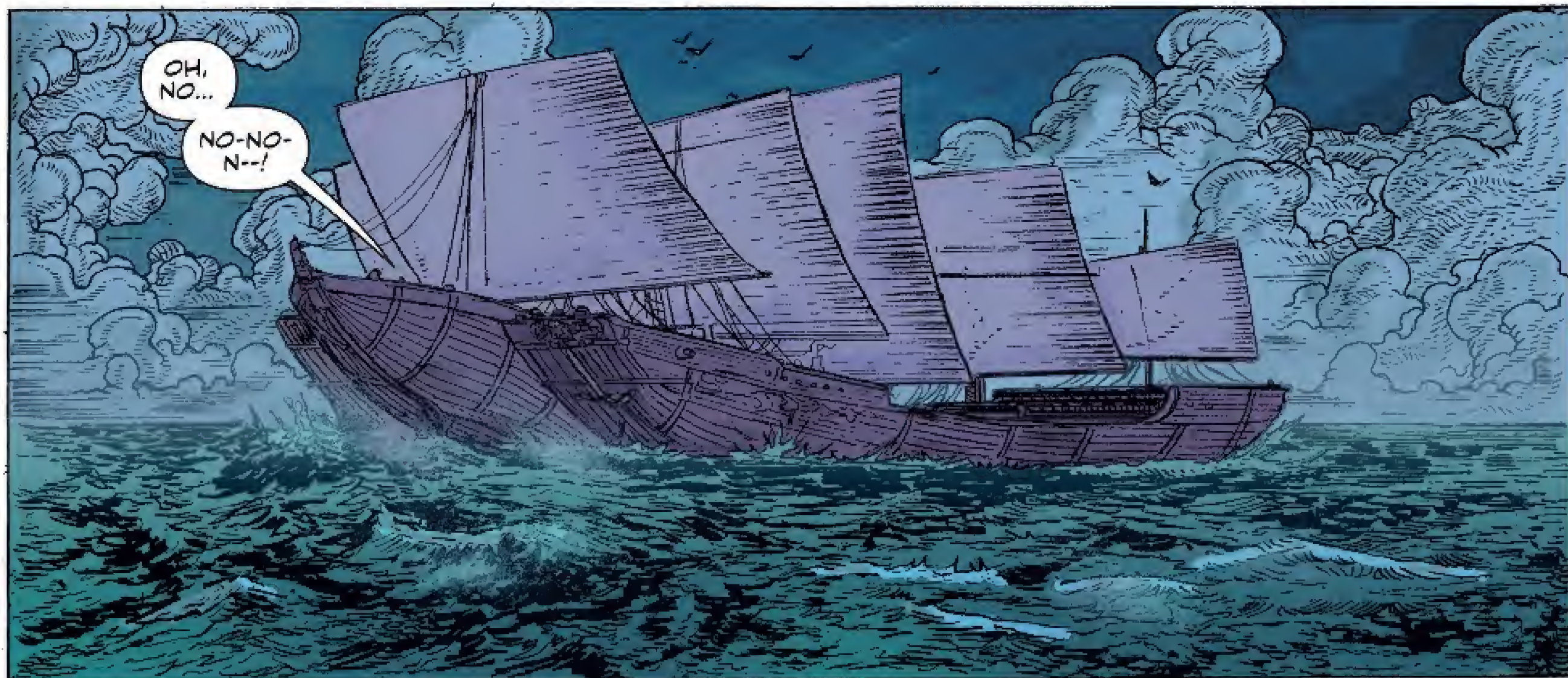


--THEN LET US  
**FORGE** THAT  
UNION BEFORE  
THEM!

START A  
NEW ERA.  
A NEW  
REIGN!

A NEW KING  
AND QUEEN  
OF THE  
TAGU-ATU!





OH,  
NO...

NO-NO-  
N--!



≡HURGGLGGLL--≡



GFF...OF ALL THE DAYS  
FOR SEA-SICKNESS...

MBATI?  
FINISH  
ATTENDING  
THE KONG  
FOR ME?  
I NEED TO...  
HLMF...



HRRRMN...

THANK  
YOU,  
VALLA.

MAYBE  
I SHOULD  
TRY TO  
SLEEP?



SNNT--  
FFFRRGH?

HN?  
WHAT? YOU  
THINK I...ATE  
SOMETHING  
BAD?

HNNT.



EWATA?  
THE  
WINDS--

I WAS NOT  
ABLE TO KEEP  
COURSE.  
BUT WE SPIED  
LAND,  
ONLY--

--I NEED  
YOU TO  
SEE  
THIS!









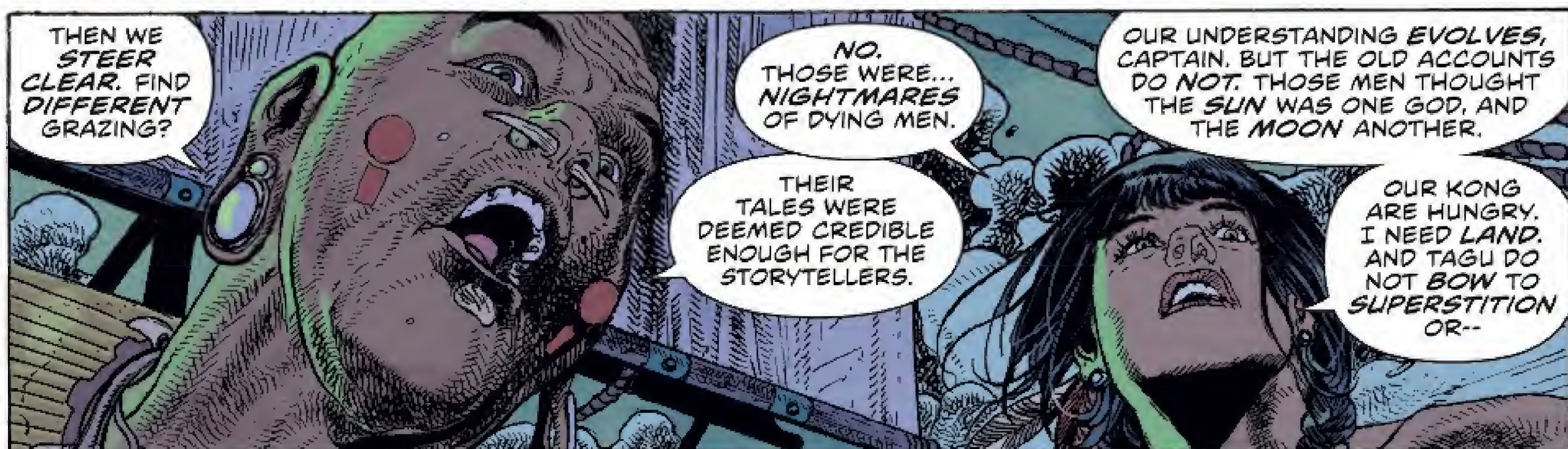
WHAT IS THAT PLACE?

SKULL ISLAND IS A NAME THE STORYTELLERS ONLY WHISPER.



A PLACE SUPPOSEDLY FILLED WITH MONSTERS.

BUT THE ACCOUNTS CAME FROM MEN WHO WERE WOUNDED AND FEVERISH.



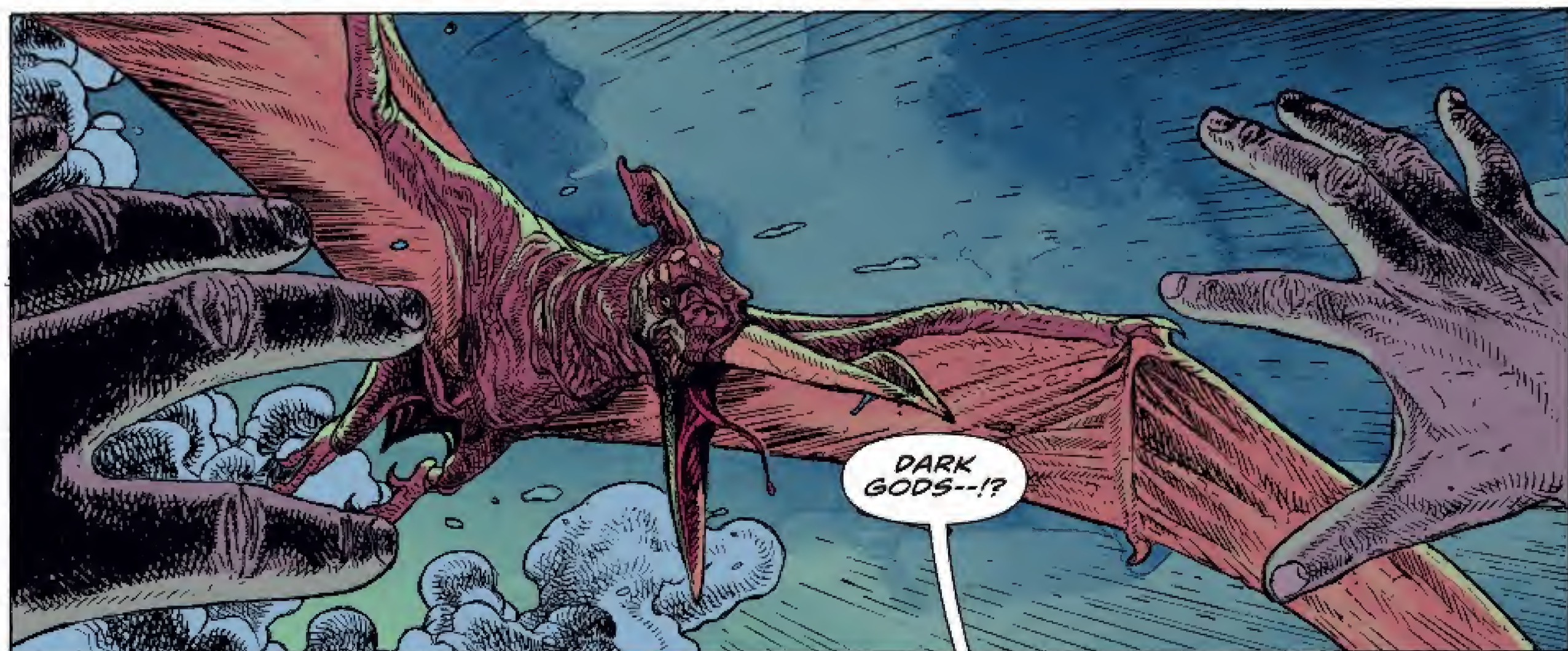
THEN WE STEER CLEAR. FIND DIFFERENT GRAZING?

NO. THOSE WERE... NIGHTMARES OF DYING MEN.

THEIR TALES WERE DEEMED CREDIBLE ENOUGH FOR THE STORYTELLERS.

OUR UNDERSTANDING EVOLVES, CAPTAIN. BUT THE OLD ACCOUNTS DO NOT. THOSE MEN THOUGHT THE SUN WAS ONE GOD, AND THE MOON ANOTHER.

OUR KONG ARE HUNGRY. I NEED LAND. AND TAGU DO NOT BOW TO SUPERSTITION OR--



DARK GODS--!?



THEY SPOTTED US!

COMING TOO FAST.

EVERYONE-- GET THE KONG AND PREPARE FOR--







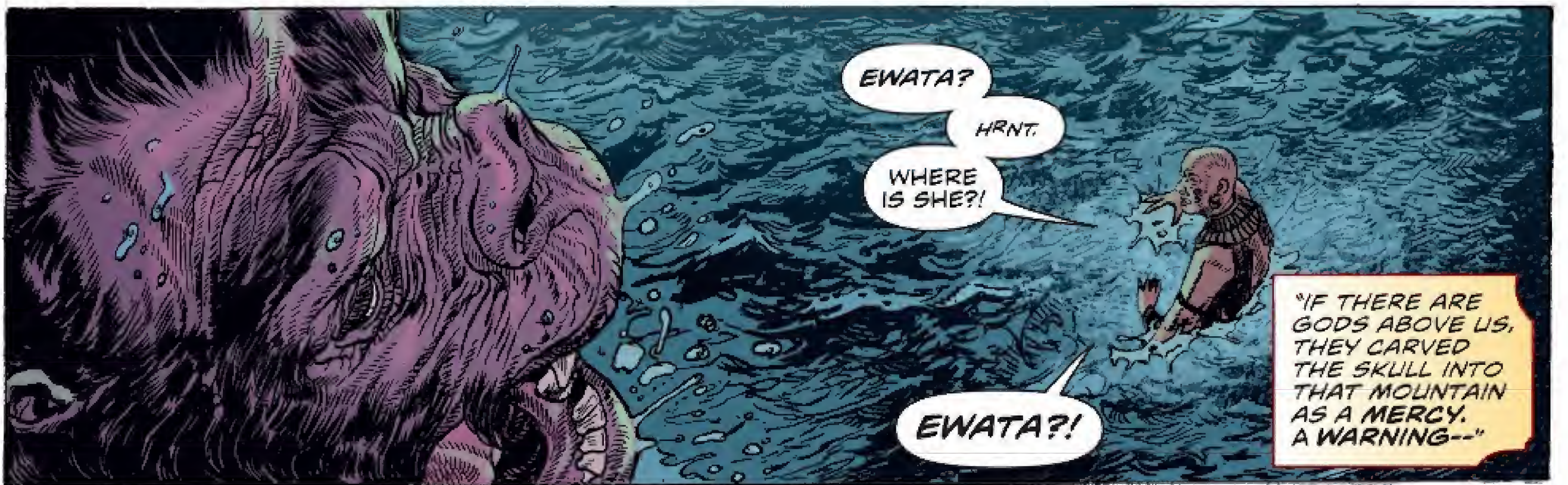


OF THOSE WHO DID, ONE TOLD ME, AS HE SWAM DESPERATELY TO SHORE, THE GRIM VISAGE BOBBING IN AND OUT OF VIEW, ONLY ONE THOUGHT FORMED IN HIS MIND--

SWIM FOR SHORE! TO THE ROCKS!

IS ANYONE STILL--?

GNAAAAAA?!



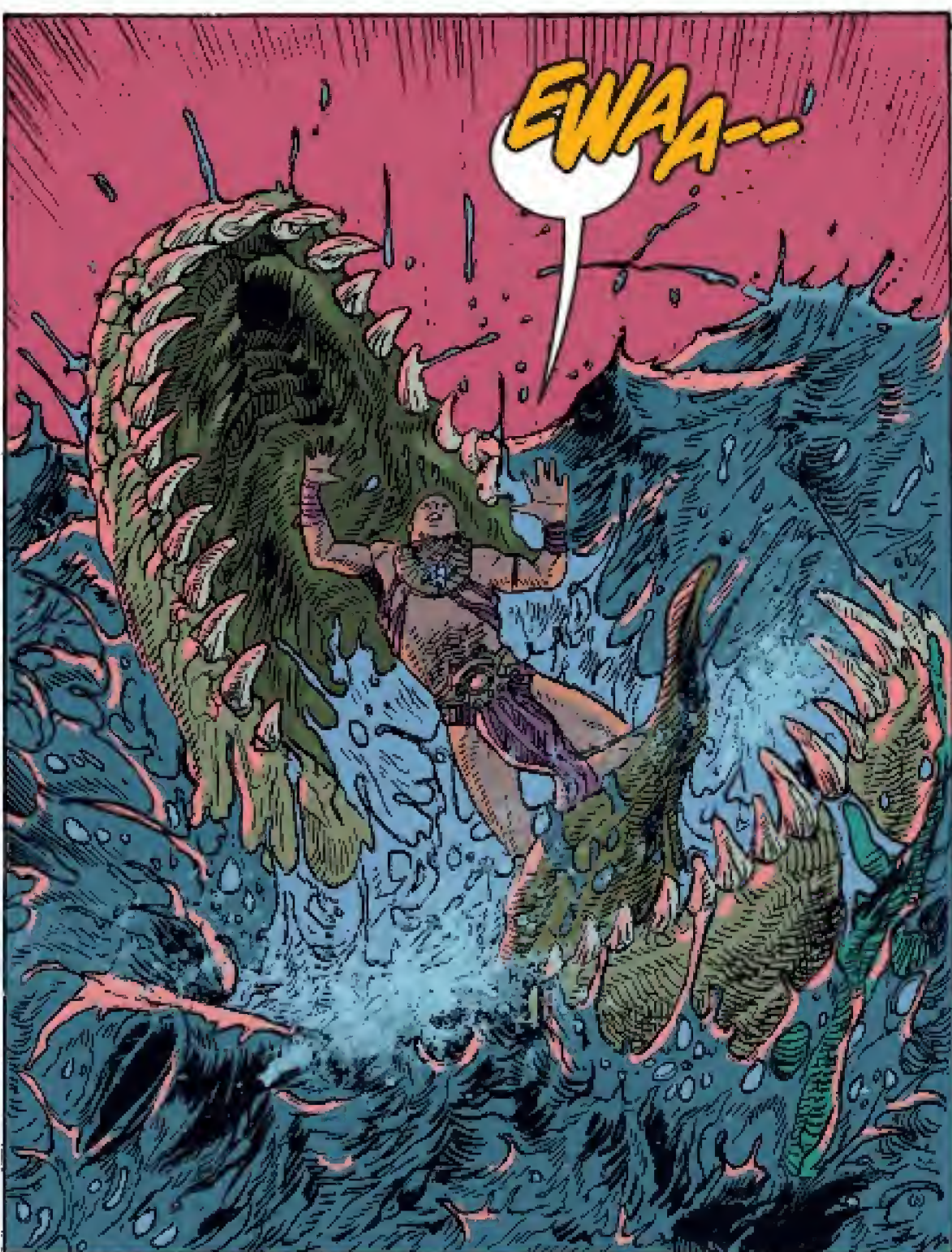
EWATA?

HRNT.

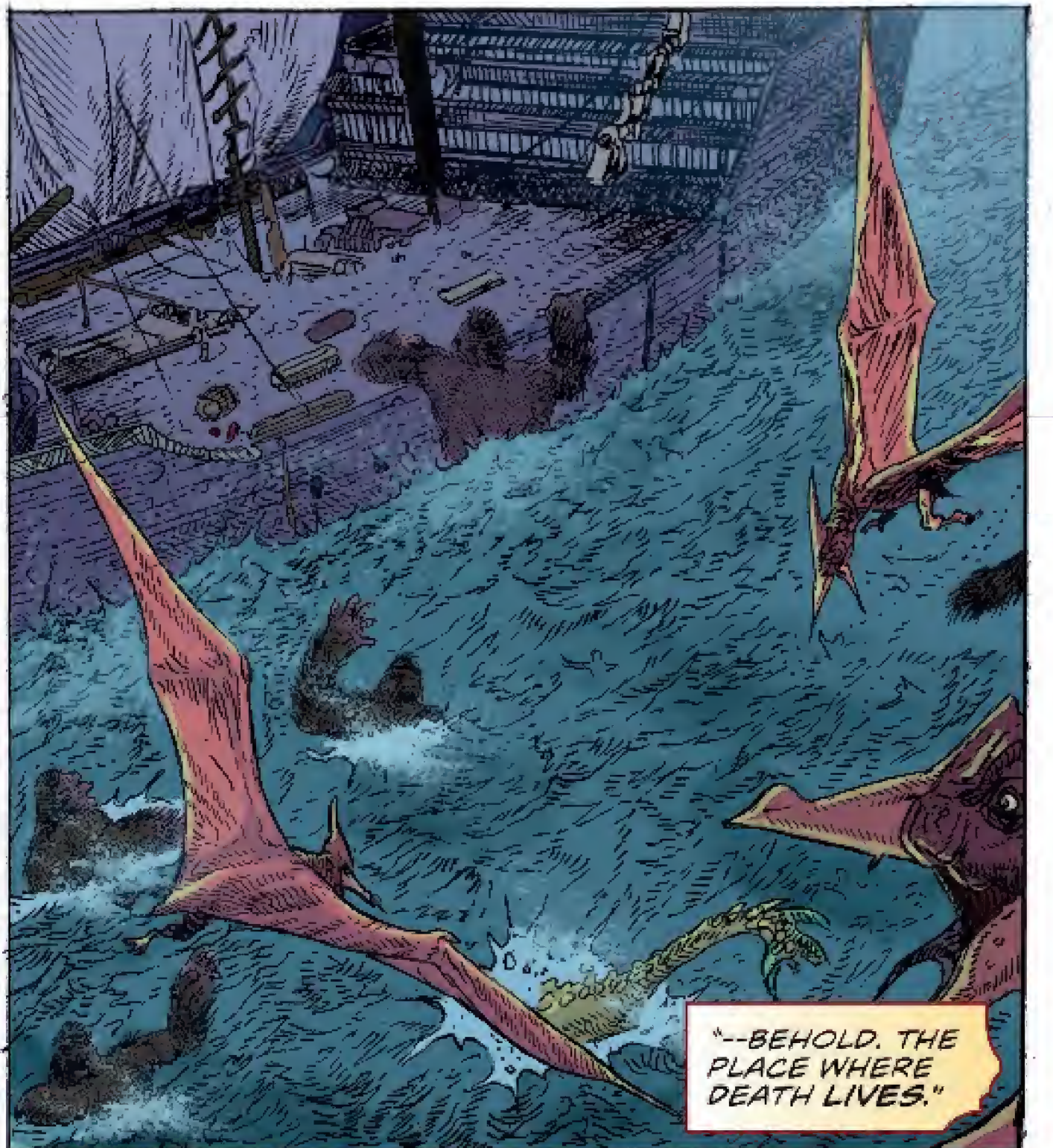
WHERE IS SHE?!

EWATA?!

"IF THERE ARE GODS ABOVE US, THEY CARVED THE SKULL INTO THAT MOUNTAIN AS A MERCY. A WARNING--"




EWAA--




"--BEHOLD. THE PLACE WHERE DEATH LIVES."







EVEN AS A SURVIVOR,  
HE HAD NO IDEA HOW  
PROPHETIC THAT  
SENTIMENT WAS.



PERHAPS WE WERE TOO  
BLINDED BY THE PETTY  
CONFLICTS OF THE DAY  
TO SEE SUCH WARNINGS--  
NO MATTER HOW LARGE.




OR PERHAPS WE HAD  
WRONGED OUR GOD--  
WHETHER BY NEGLECT  
OR BLASPHEMY?



EVEN AS I RECORD AND REVIEW  
EVERY ACCOUNT OF WHAT LED  
US DOWN THIS PATH, I CANNOT  
SAY WHERE FAULT SHOULD LIE.

IN EITHER EVENT, GOD SAW  
FIT TO DELIVER MOST OF US  
TO THE CURSED ISLE--





--AND DEATH  
WAS COMING  
FOR US, NO  
MATTER  
WHAT.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON

NO. 2 OF 6

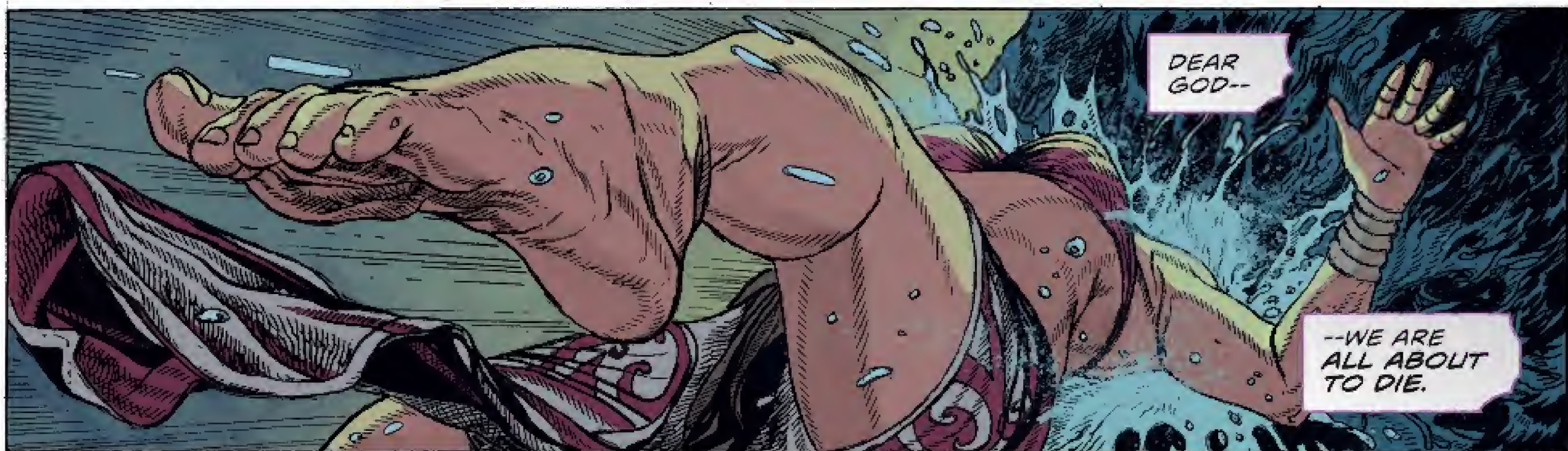
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS







WHAT  
JUST--?



DEAR  
GOD--

--WE ARE  
ALL ABOUT  
TO DIE.



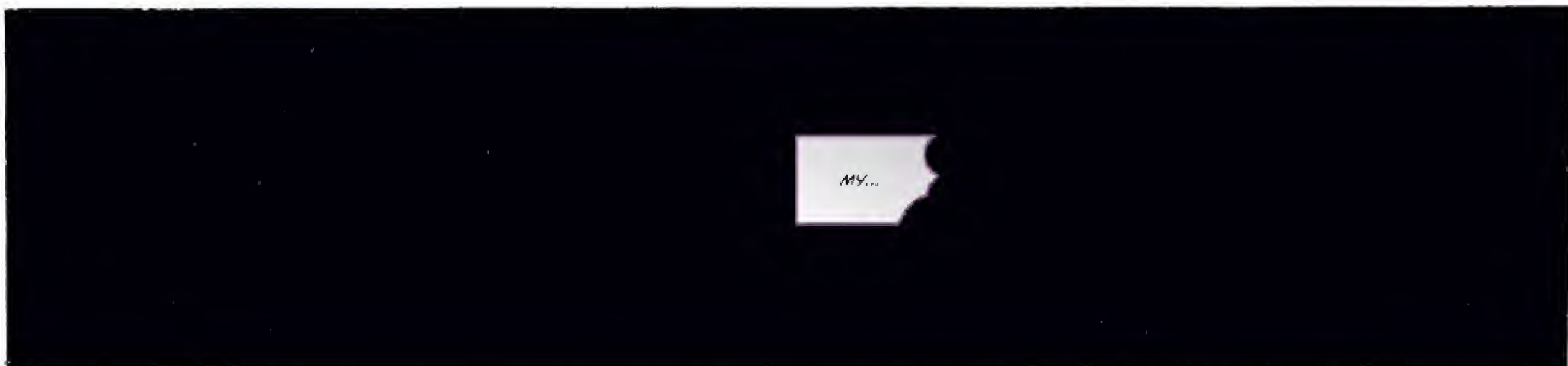
DID I  
CAUSE  
IT...?

IGNORING  
OUR HISTORY...  
WARNING  
SIGNS.



I BROUGHT  
US TO OUR  
DEATH...

...MY FRIENDS...  
MY FRIENDS.



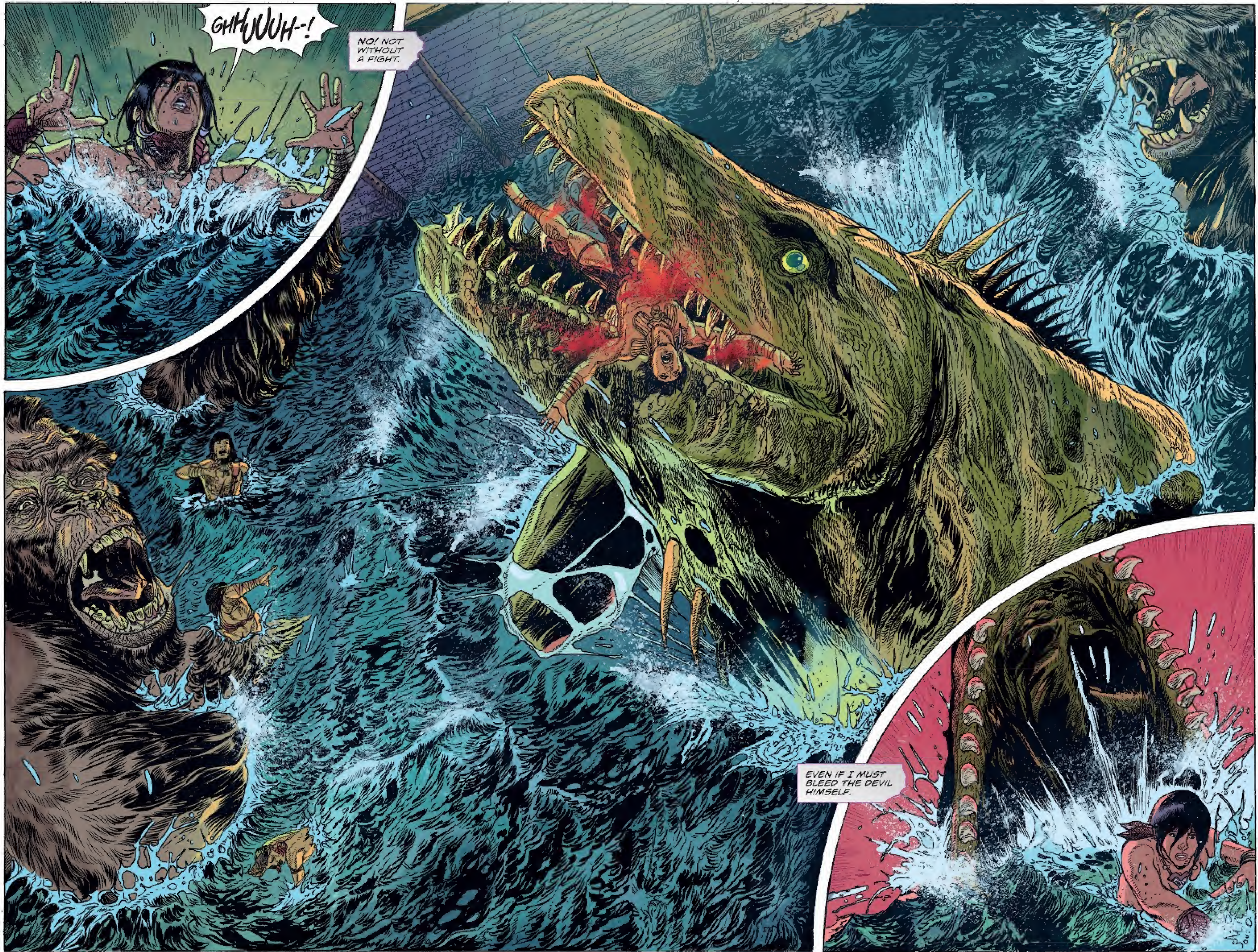
MY...



GHHUUH--!

NO! NOT  
WITHOUT  
A FIGHT.

EVEN IF I MUST  
BLEED THE DEVIL  
HIMSELF.



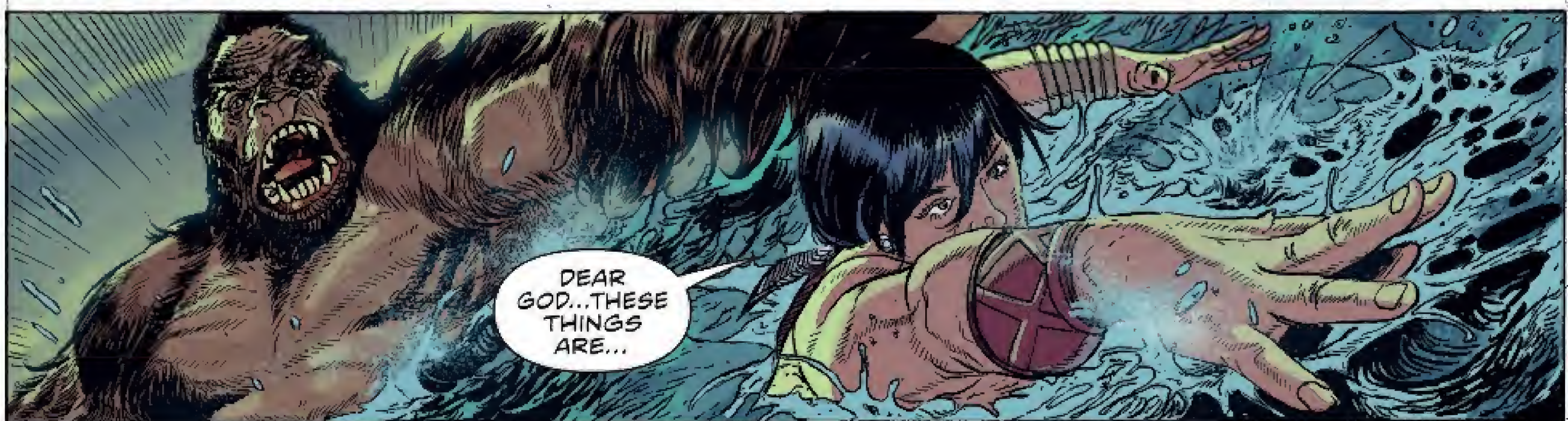




FER'RAH!  
THE EYE!



SKEEEEEEE



DEAR  
GOD...THESE  
THINGS  
ARE...

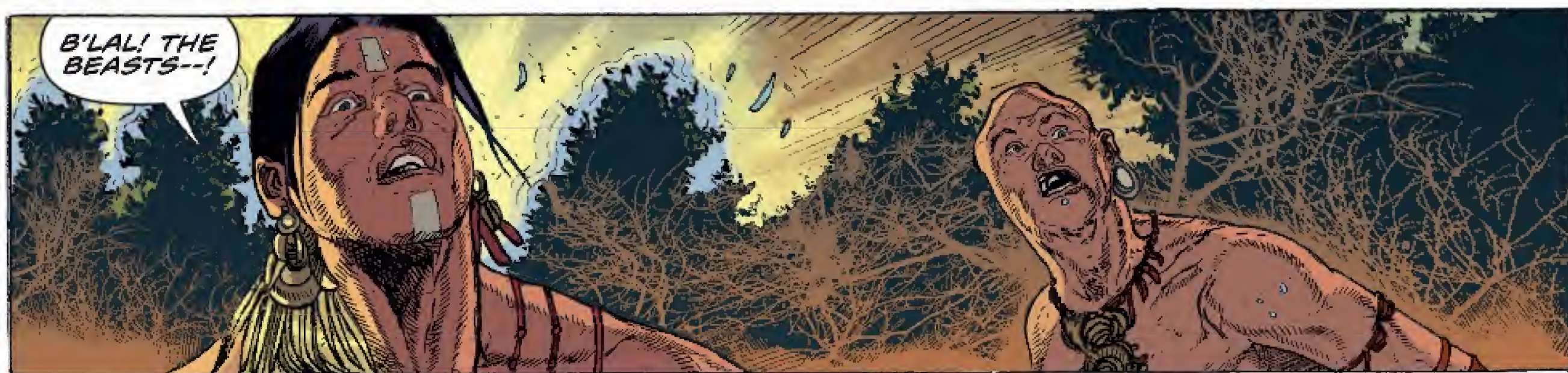


KONGA!  
HERE!

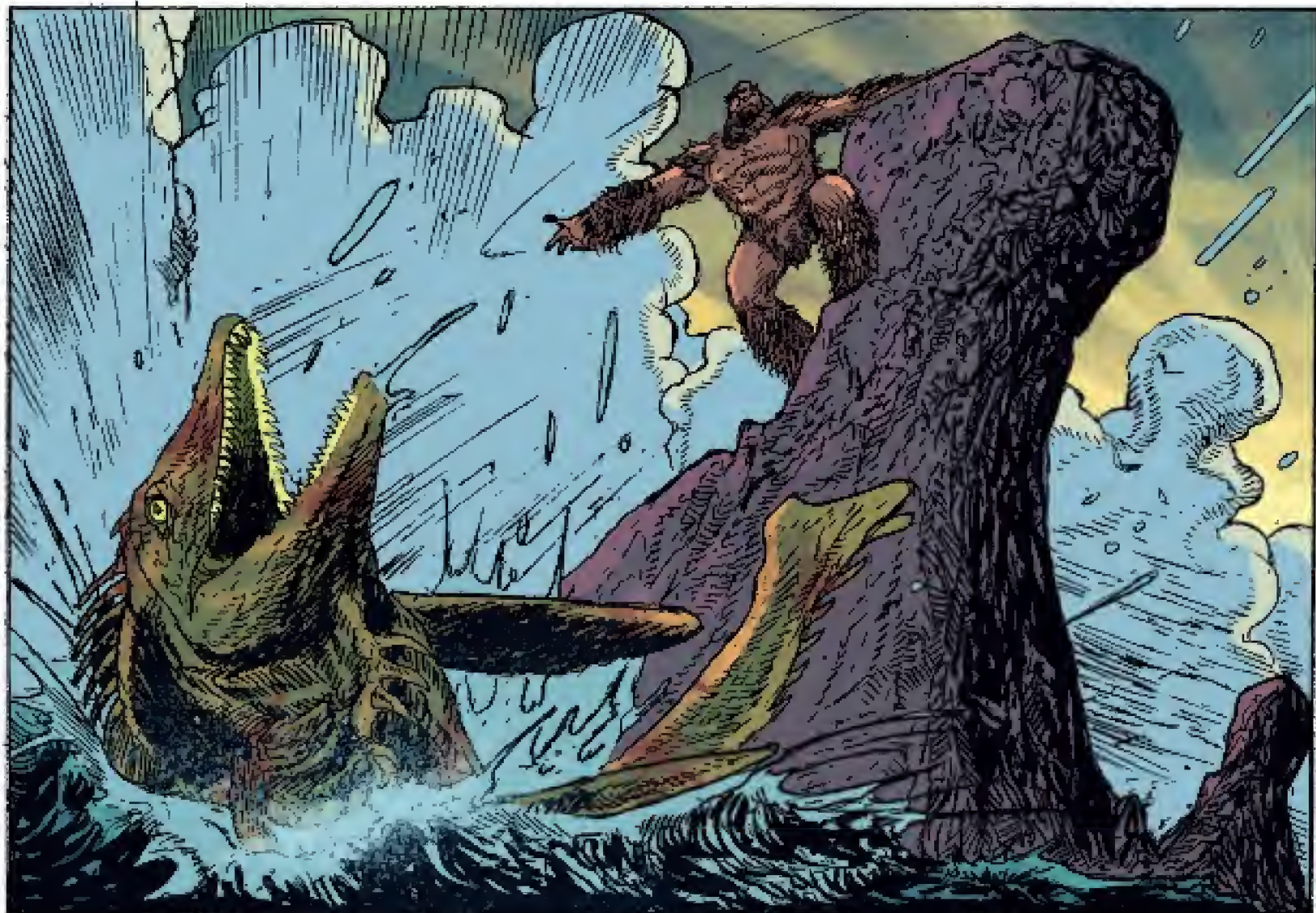
THE REST  
OF YOU--GO!!  
GET OUT OF  
THE WATER!

THERE  
COULD BE  
MORE OF  
THESE!

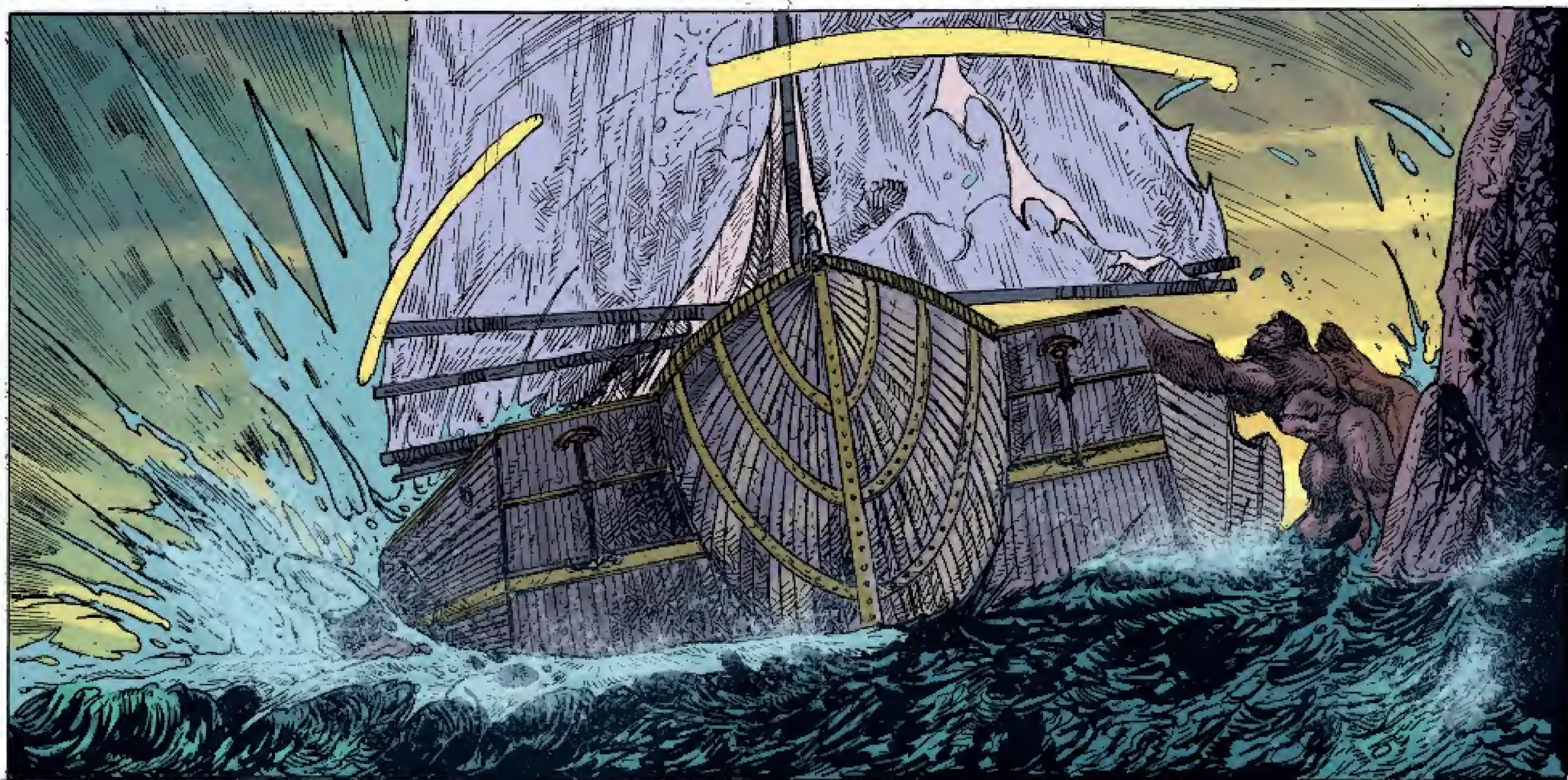
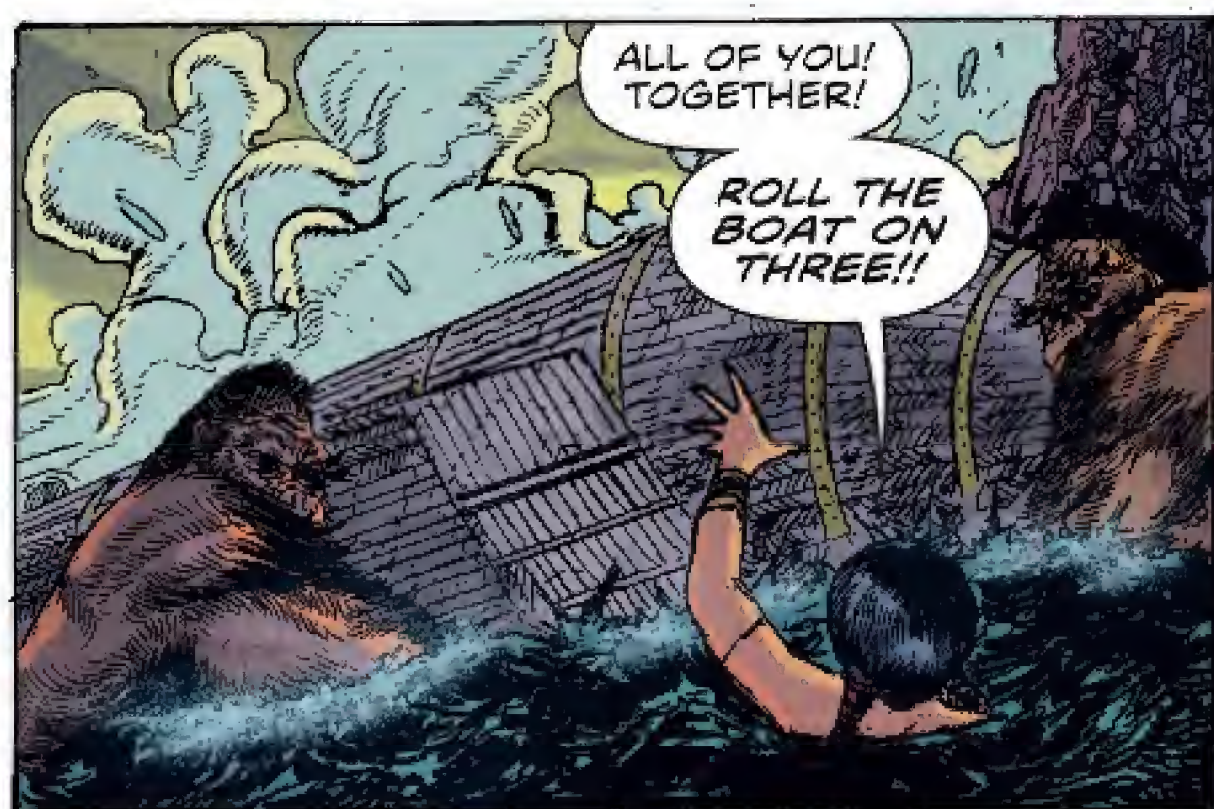




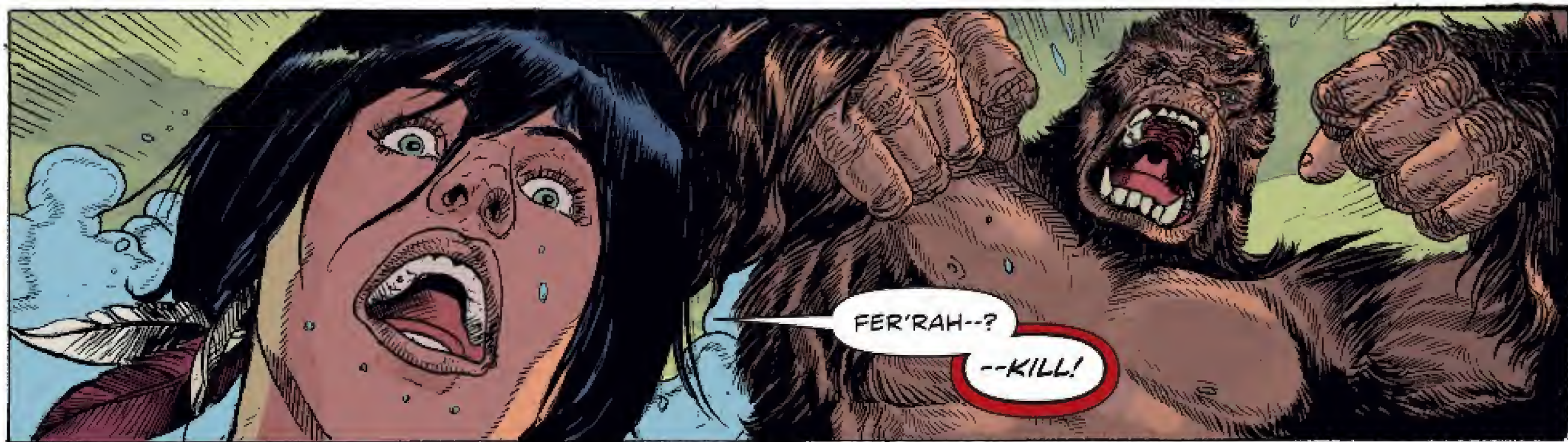




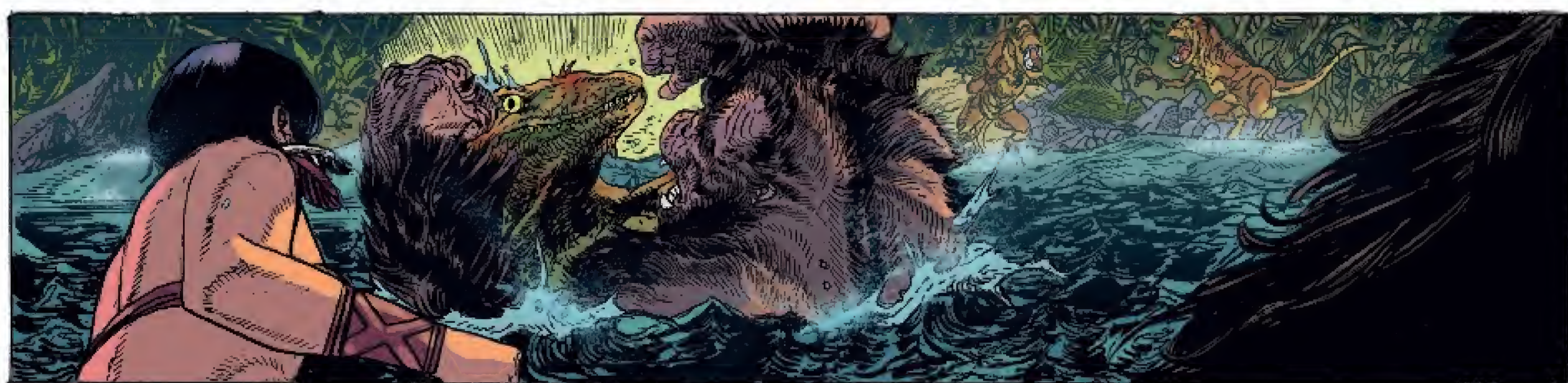
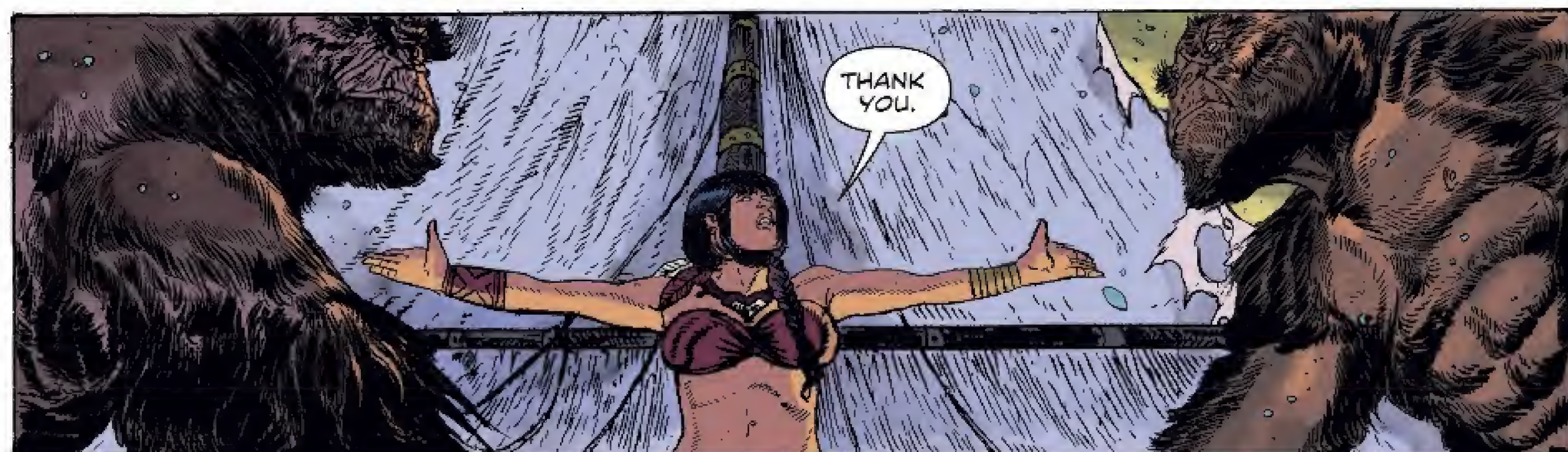
















--AND SOME EMBROIDERY DOWN THE SIDES, STITCHING IN SOME GEMS, PERHAPS?

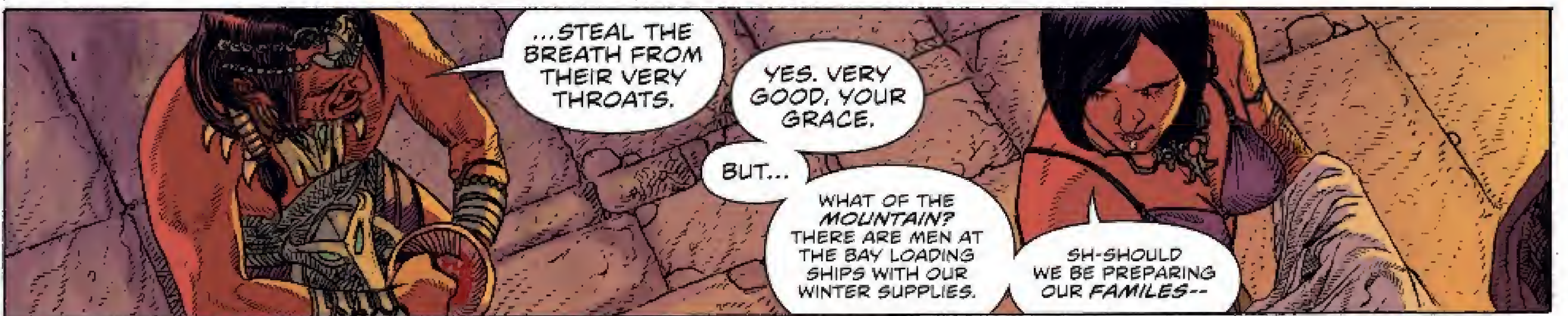
I RECENTLY CAME TO POSSESS A PAIR OF RUBIES THAT WOULD MAKE A PERFECT PAIR IF THERE IS TIME FOR JEWELRY.

AND DOUBLE THE LENGTH OF THE CAPE.

YOUR WORK ANNOUNCES A NEW QUEEN--IT SHOULD...



HNNRRMNNRRMNN



...STEAL THE BREATH FROM THEIR VERY THROATS.

YES. VERY GOOD, YOUR GRACE.

BUT...

WHAT OF THE MOUNTAIN? THERE ARE MEN AT THE BAY LOADING SHIPS WITH OUR WINTER SUPPLIES.

SH-SHOULD WE BE PREPARING OUR FAMILIES--



THIS WEDDING IS A TRIBUTE TO THE GODS.

AND THEY PROTECT THOSE WHO TOIL IN THEIR SERVICE.



WEAR THEIR BLESSING.

AND TAKE COMFORT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, AS YOU UPHOLD YOUR RIGHTEOUS TASK FOR TOMORROW--

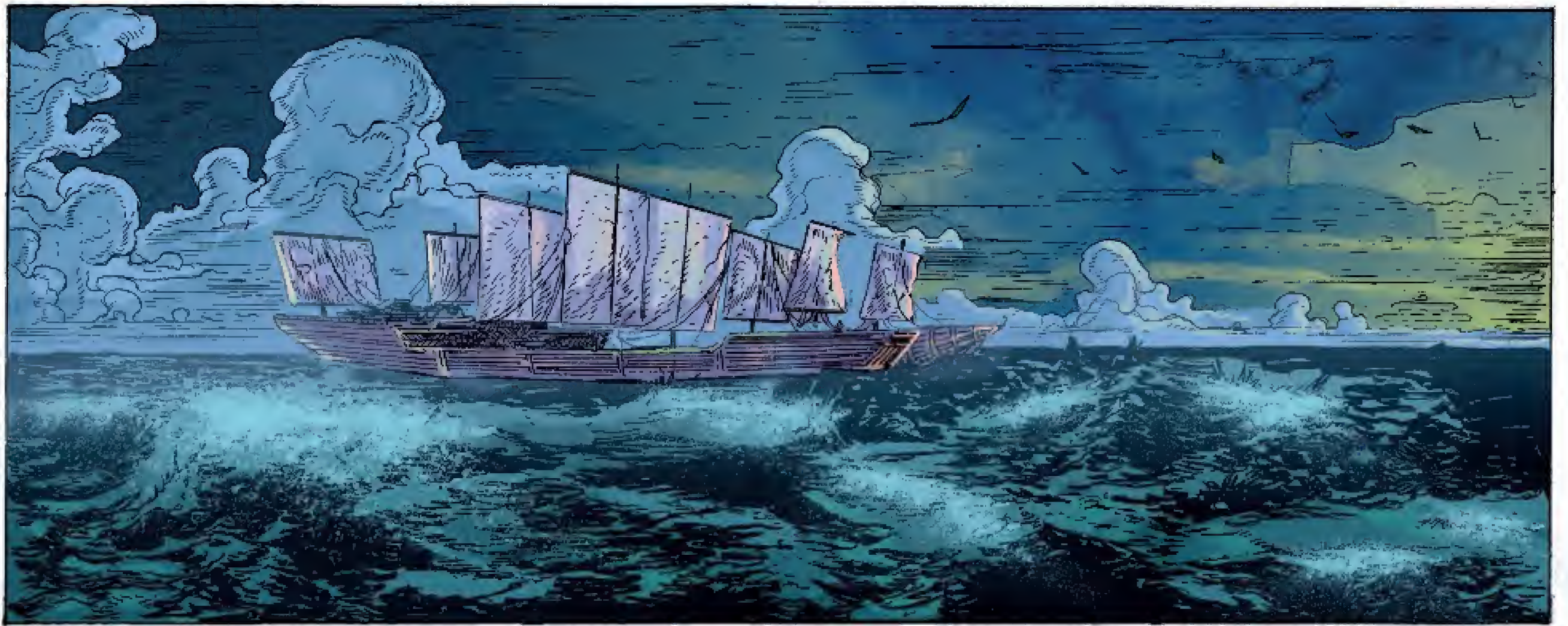


--THERE ARE OTHERS FORGING THE DESTINY THAT FOLLOWS.













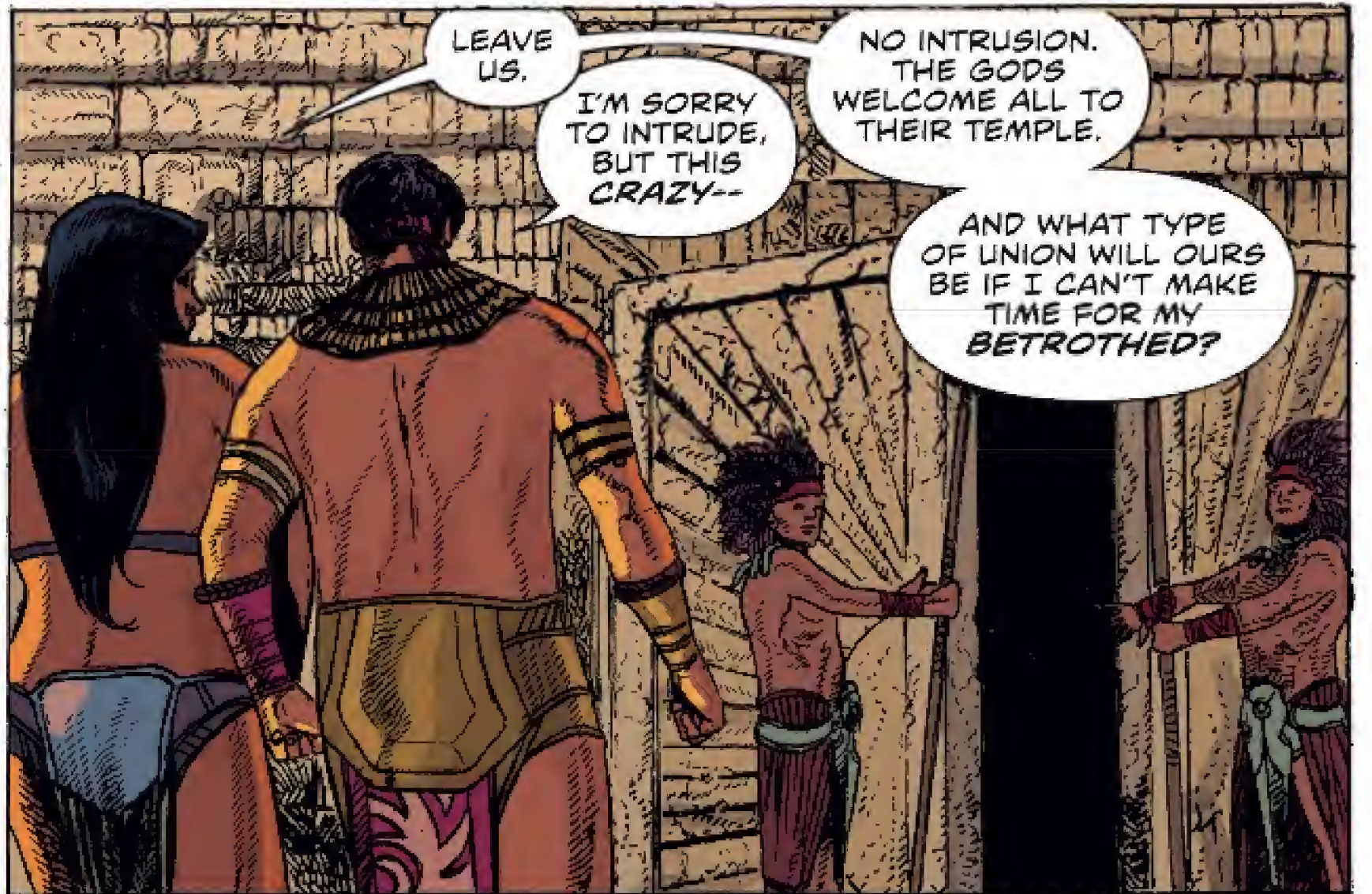
USANA--!

K'RETI? WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND?

MAY I...SPEAK WITH YOU PRIVATELY?

OF COURSE.

THIS WAY.



LEAVE US.

I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE, BUT THIS CRAZY--

NO INTRUSION. THE GODS WELCOME ALL TO THEIR TEMPLE.

AND WHAT TYPE OF UNION WILL OURS BE IF I CAN'T MAKE TIME FOR MY BETROTHED?



AND NOW--YOU WERE SAYING?

I FAIL TO SEE HOW A THEATRICAL MARRIAGE SAVES ANY LIVES.

SURELY THIS CAN'T BE WHAT YOU DREAMED OF FOR YOUR FUTURE.

IF WE BOTH SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS--



MINE WOULD STILL NOT BE MOVED.

MY FATHER'S FAITH IS SINCERE. IF HE BELIEVES A UNION IS THE WILL OF THE GODS--HE WILL NOT BE SWAYED.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU SERVE THE GODS OR YOUR FATHER?

TO MY EYES, THERE IS A TRUTH GREATER THAN GODS, GREATER THAN YOUR STUDIES--THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND BOTH THOSE THINGS.





THE TRUE  
MOTIVATION  
BEHIND ALL?

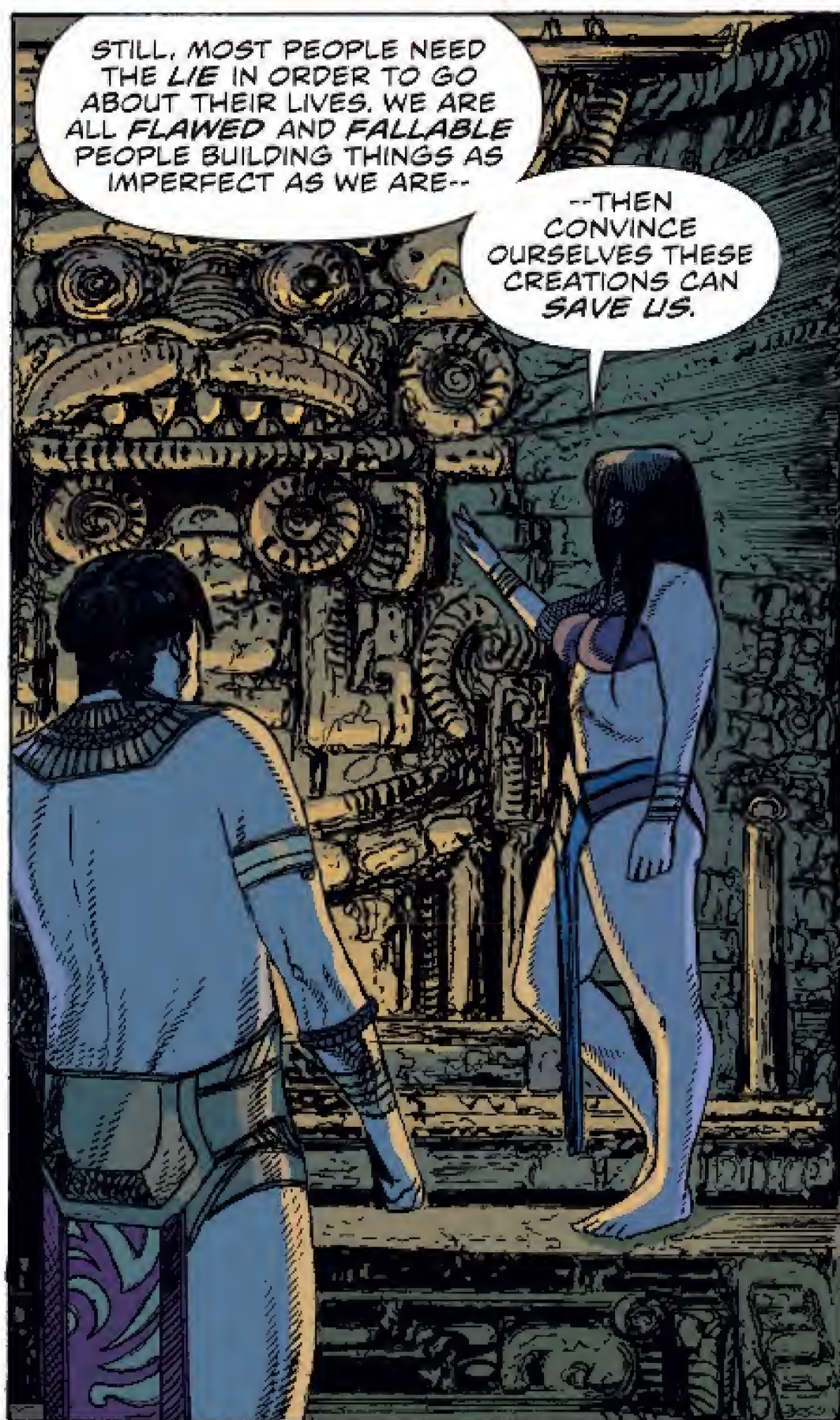
PEOPLE  
FEAR  
CHAOS.

BUT NATURE IS  
CHAOS. LIFE IS  
UNPREDICTABLE.  
SO...?

RELIGION,  
FARMING, SHELTER,  
MARRIAGE--EVERY  
HUMAN-MADE SYSTEM  
IS DESIGNED TO GIVE  
US SOME FEELING  
THAT OUR LIVES ARE  
UNDER CONTROL.



BUT THOSE  
SECURITIES ARE AN  
EMPTY PROMISE.  
GODS ALLOW  
SUFFERING. CROPS  
WITHER. LOVERS  
BETRAY...



STILL, MOST PEOPLE NEED  
THE LIE IN ORDER TO GO  
ABOUT THEIR LIVES. WE ARE  
ALL FLAWED AND FALLABLE  
PEOPLE BUILDING THINGS AS  
IMPERFECT AS WE ARE--

--THEN  
CONVINCE  
OURSELVES THESE  
CREATIONS CAN  
SAVE US.

SO, TO ANSWER YOUR  
QUESTION--NO, I DO  
NOT THINK A MARRIAGE  
WILL SAVE LIVES.

BUT IF THE PEOPLE OF  
BOTH OUR TRIBES FEEL THEIR  
LEADERS ARE IN CONTROL,  
POSSESSING VISION AND  
STRENGTH--?





"--THAT MAY BE THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS THEIR FEAR FROM GIVING WAY TO CHAOS."



AH! THE KING LOADS HIS SHIPS WITH MONTHS OF SUPPLIES--BUT LIES TO SAY THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR?! AS OUR SKY GOES BLACK?!

WE ARE NOT LEAVING, AND THESE SHIPS ARE TAGU PROPERTY, SO--

BUT YOU FILL IT WITH FRUITS GROWN IN THE ATU VILLAGE! THERE--!

LET US ON THAT SHIP! YOU TAKE US WHEREVER IT IS YOU FLEE TO!



ENOUGH! WE WILL WAIT INSIDE UNTIL YOU DO SET SAIL!

I WILL NOT RISK MY FAMILY ONE MORE MINUTE ON THIS--

--FFTWEEEE!



**HRAGG!**

YOU HEAR? ATU KONG!

THE KING AND YOUR SHAMAN PREPARE TOGETHER. YOU WILL NOT BE LEFT TO DIE. BECAUSE--IF YOU WASTE ONE MORE MINUTE OF OUR TIME?

**THAAL!**







HGGRARRR

I'LL FEED  
YOU TO THIS  
STINKING--

EXCUSE THE  
INTERRUPTION.

BUT PLEASE--  
GO ABOUT WHATEVER  
BEHAVIOR YOU WISHED  
TO BE REMEMBERED  
FOR THROUGHOUT  
THE GENERATIONS.



STORYTELLER.  
WE WERE SIMPLY  
PLEADING A RIGHT  
TO PASSAGE OFF  
THE ISLAND!

THE ATU MADE A  
SURVIVAL STOCK--BUT WE  
FIND TAGU WHO CLAIM  
ENTITLED TO TAKE IT  
WITHOUT ANY--

YOU OPPOSE COMMUNAL  
RESOURCES? YET YOU WISH  
TO EXPLOIT OUR LABOR  
THAT BUILT THESE SHIPS! YOU  
ARE LUCKY WE DON'T--



HRRRNMBRNRRRR



IT  
PASSED.

BUT IF I  
MAY TURN THE  
SUBJECT...?

DO YOU  
KNOW WHICH  
NAMES A  
STORYTELLER  
IS TAUGHT  
FIRST?



THE  
LEADERS  
WHO  
BROUGHT  
ABOUT OUR  
KONG.

TAGU  
SCHOLARS  
PIONEERED  
SELECTIVE  
BREEDING. THE  
ATU SHAMAN AND  
ALCHEMISTS  
DEVELOPED  
GROWTH  
STIMULANTS.  
TOGETHER.

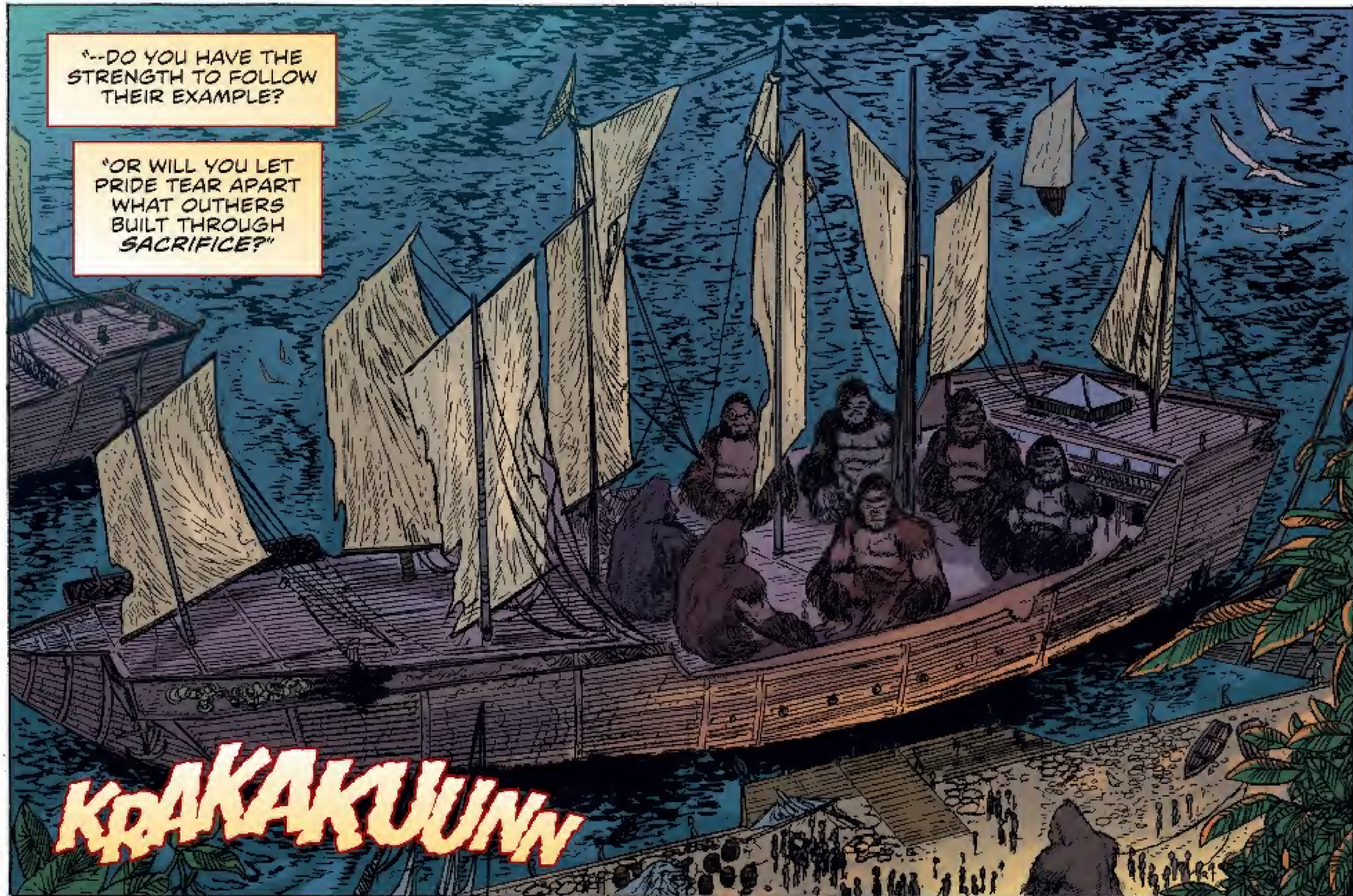


THEY FACED  
DISASTER,  
PREDATORS, AND  
INSTABILITY--

--BUT  
THROUGH  
UNITING,  
EMERGED AS  
SOMETHING  
STRONGER,  
GREATER  
THAN EVER  
BEFORE.

TELL ME--IF  
YOUR GODS AND  
SCHOLARS ARE  
PREPARING FOR  
UPHEAVAL  
AGAIN--





"--DO YOU HAVE THE  
STRENGTH TO FOLLOW  
THEIR EXAMPLE?

"OR WILL YOU LET  
PRIDE TEAR APART  
WHAT OUTHERS  
BUILT THROUGH  
SACRIFICE?"

**KRAKAKUUNN**



WAS  
THAT--?!

NO.  
WE'RE  
HOME.  
SAFE.



MBETI? TRY  
TO KEEP THE KONG  
CLOSE AND CALM. THE  
REST OF YOU--TEND TO  
THE WOUNDED. I WILL  
HURRY TO FIND THE  
SHAMAN.

ARE...  
WHY ARE THE  
OTHER SHIPS  
PREPPED?




WHAT...?

WHAT  
DID WE  
MISS?









--PRESENT TO  
YOU THE NEWLY  
SANCTIFIED KING  
AND QUEEN OF  
THE UNITED  
TAGUATU  
PEOPLE--!

HHRRMMBBMMHHRRMMB-B-BRRK-K-





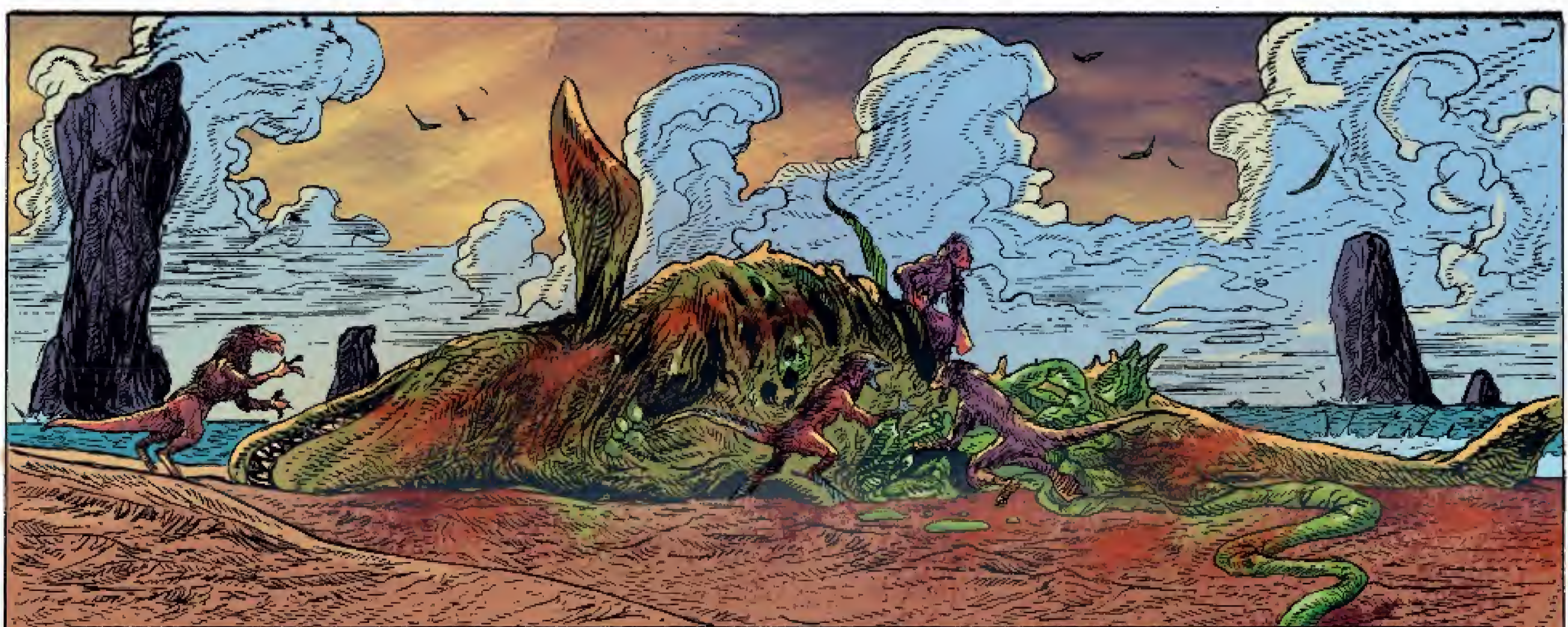
AY!  
WHAT--?!

TURN  
BACK!  
SHIPS--GET  
TO THE  
SHIPS!!

DEAR  
GOD...  
NO--!

THE  
WINDS HAVEN'T  
CHANGED! IF WE  
SAIL NOW...WE'LL  
LAND RIGHT  
BACK...











# KONG


## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON

NO. 3 OF 6  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS







THE TAGU AND ATU TRIBES--  
TWO IDEOLOGICAL FACTIONS  
OF A GREAT PEOPLE--

--A PEOPLE WHO DECODED THE  
SECRETS OF COUNTLESS SCIENTIFIC  
AND MATHEMATIC TRUTHS WITHOUT  
EVER ENCOUNTERING ANOTHER  
CIVILIZATION--

--A PEOPLE WHO PIONEERED A BREEDING  
SCIENCE THAT, IN A THOUSAND YEARS,  
TURNED APES INTO KONG--

--THESE TWO FACTIONS, AS  
SHREWD AS THEY WERE, HAD  
GROWN SO CERTAIN OF THEIR  
OWN PERMANENCE THAT THEY  
WERE RAPT BY PAGEANTRY--



HGGRAAA!

--WHEN UTTER  
DESTRUCTION ERUPTED  
BENEATH THEIR FEET.

DEAR  
GODS...IF THE  
ISLAND ITSELF  
SPLITS--

YET, DISASTER OFTEN  
REVEALS THE TRUE  
NATURE OF THINGS.

THE  
SHIPS--!

THEY EXPECTED  
THIS--BUT THE  
BASTARDS NEVER  
WARNED US!

WHAT--?!

WE WERE  
MADE TO  
LOAD  
SUPPLIES  
ONTO THOSE  
KONG  
SHIPS!

MASSIVE  
STORES OF  
FOOD--BUILDING  
MATERIAL!

IT'S ALL  
THERE! BUT  
WE HAVE TO  
GO NOW!

AND IN DISASTER, THOSE  
BONDS THAT ARE NOT  
STRENGTHENED AND  
PROTECTED--

--TEND TO DIE ALONGSIDE  
THE UNFORTUNATE.

THE  
VILLAGE!  
GO! WE--  
WE'LL BE  
SAFE  
THERE!

K'RETI!  
THEY RUN  
INLAND?!

OH NO. MY  
FATHER KEPT  
OUR PLANS  
SECRET. TO  
KEEP  
ORDER--

WE  
HAVE TO GET  
THEM TO THE  
SHIPS!

USANA--  
WAIT!  
YOU'D BE  
TRAMPLED!

YOU'RE  
RIGHT. WE  
NEED A  
KONG.

EWATA!

EWATA...?

GO!  
GOOO!  
THE  
KONG ARE  
**LOOSE!**

**THUMPSSSH**



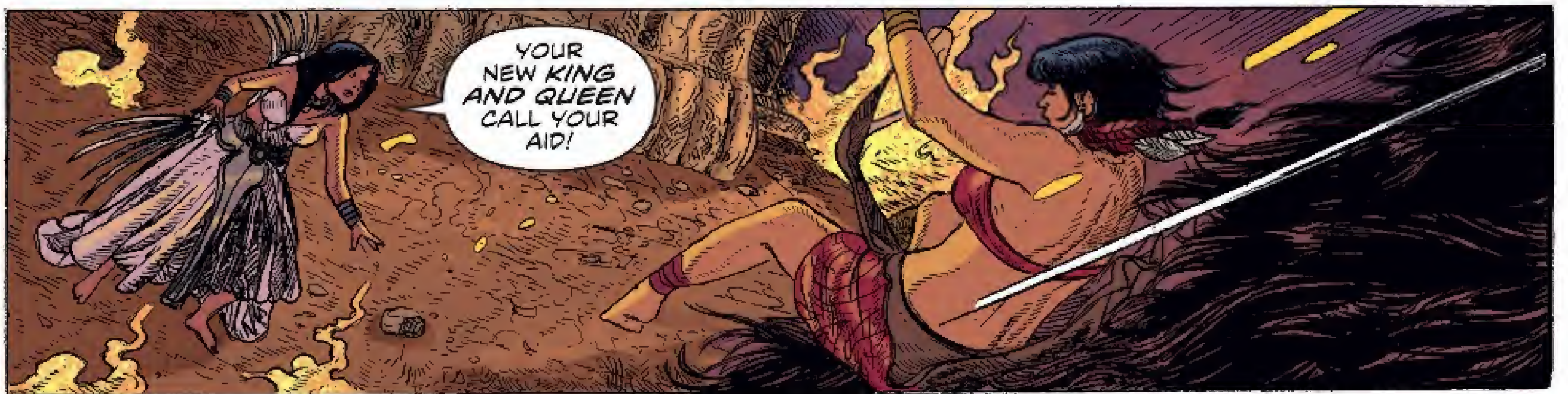


HRG--HGGG--

GOOD  
HOLD,  
VALLA!

NOW--  
CALM!  
SETTLE.  
WE  
ONLY--

EWATA  
OF THE  
ATU!



YOUR  
NEW KING  
AND QUEEN  
CALL YOUR  
AID!



WE NEED YOUR  
MORE...DISCIPLINED  
KONG TO CONTROL  
THIS CHAOS.

THAT'S  
PRECISELY  
WHAT YOU JUST  
CALLED ME  
AWAY FROM  
DOING!

IN PART, BUT  
THE SHIPS ARE PREPPED  
TO EVACUATE THE ISLAND.  
WE NEED YOUR APES TO LEAD  
THE PEOPLE THERE SAFELY.



"WE"?



EWATA...  
I NEED  
YOU.



THEY DO.  
YOU SEEM  
TO BE FINE  
WITHOUT  
ME.





VALLA!  
MORE  
TROUBLE.



HRROOAA--

HNNE!  
HNNE!



--OOORGH!

WE  
NEED THE  
OTHERS--  
CALL!



KONG! NEW  
COMMANDS--

HN-HN--

HRAAOOORGRAOOO--!



HGRAAAAAA!

OH,  
THANK  
GOD!

TUNO!  
TAKAN!  
GET THESE  
PEOPLE  
TO THE  
SHIPS!

VALLA  
CAN HOLD  
BACK THE  
CRAZED ATU  
KONG.

MOVE!  
MOVE! SHE'S  
ABOUT TO--!

--D'AAAH!

TPNNNN

GRRRT!

NO!  
AGANI?

GET  
BACK--!





TAGU! ATU!  
LISTEN TO  
ME!

WE--YOUR  
LEADERSHIP--HAVE  
PREPARED FOR  
THIS DISASTER!

DO NOT  
RETURN TO THE  
VILLAGES! THE  
PATHS AROUND THE  
GREAT MOUNTAIN  
ARE NO LONGER  
SAFE!



PLEASE--GO AS CALMLY  
AND DIRECTLY AS YOU  
CAN TO THE BAY OF  
GREAT SHIPS!

CAPTAINS! CREW!  
TAKE THE LEAD AND  
COORDINATE  
BOARDING!



DO NOT WORRY  
OR DELAY ABOUT  
HOW THE SHIPS  
ARE ASSIGNED!

WE ARE  
ALL SAILING  
FOR A NEW  
HOME AS  
ONE!

WHATEVER  
CONFLICTS THERE  
HAVE BEEN BETWEEN  
OUR BELIEFS--THEY ARE  
BEHIND US NOW! WE CAN  
ONLY SURVIVE THE  
TERRORS OF THIS WORLD  
WHEN WE STAND UNITED!



NOW GO--  
TOGETHER--

--AND HAVE  
FAITH THE  
BENEVOLENT  
GODS WILL  
DELIVER US  
SAFELY!

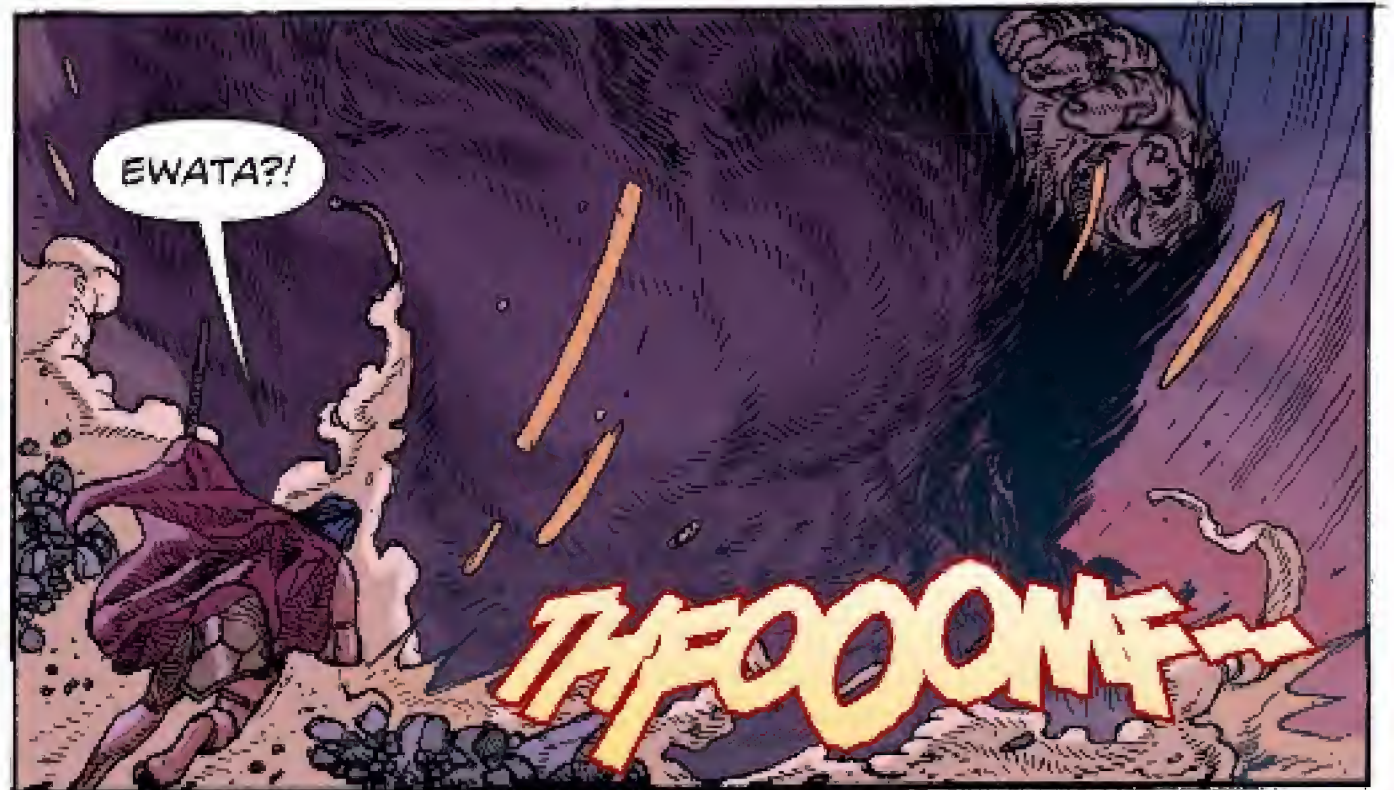
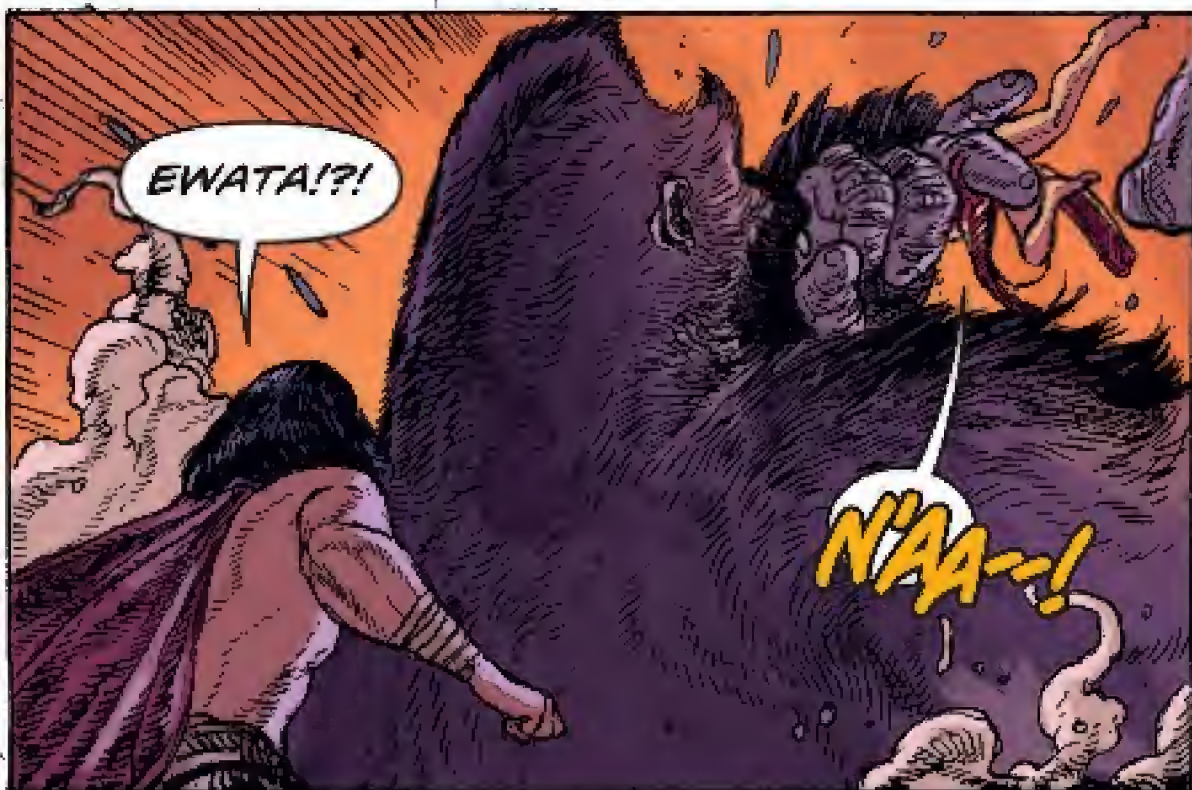


THAT WAS  
WONDERFUL!

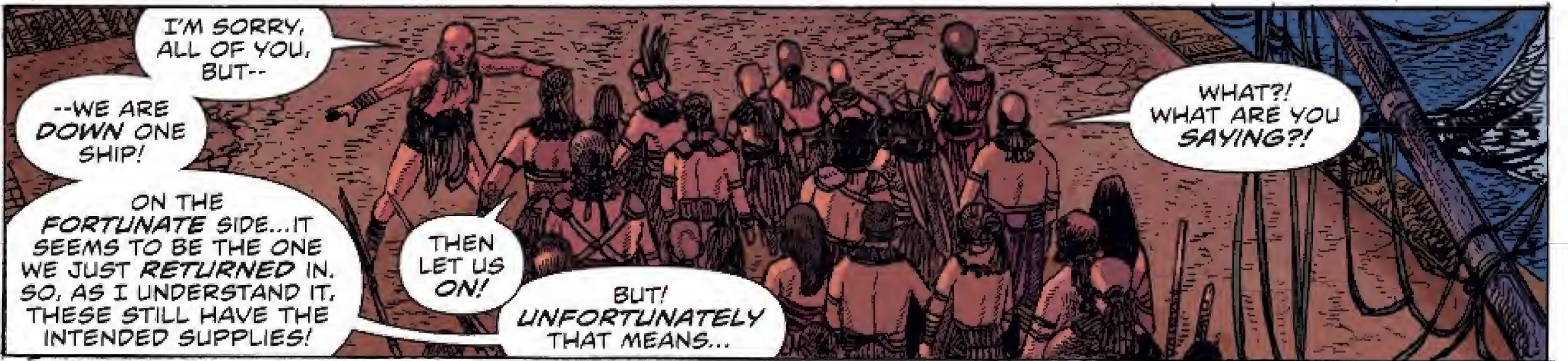
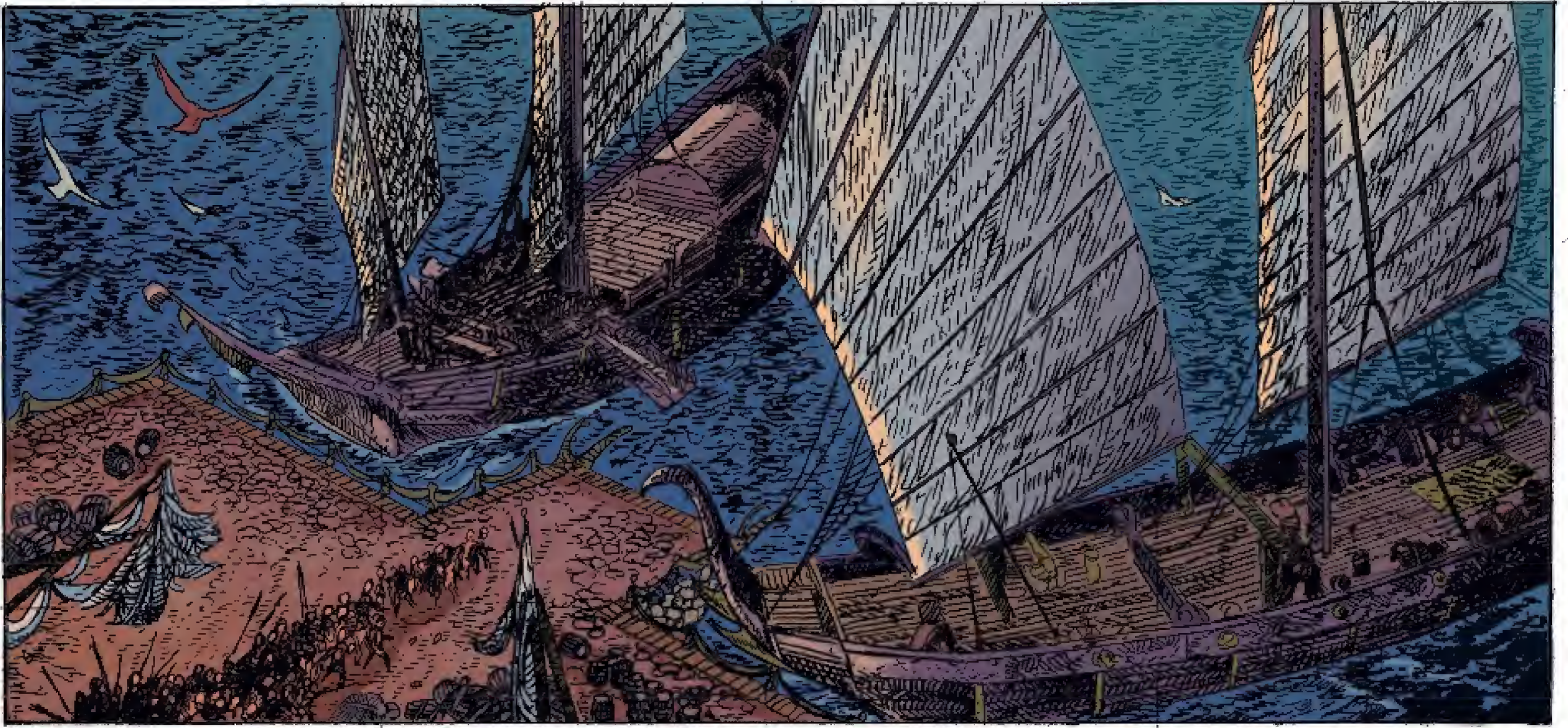
HM,  
YES,  
BUT...

...WE  
SHOULD  
GO.













--I WILL STAY WITH YOU.

WHAT?! FATHER, NO--

OUR PEOPLE NEED YOU!

THEY NEED THEIR KING. AND NOW, THAT IS YOU.



BUT I WILL MAKE ONE FINAL DECISION AS SOVEREIGN...

IT IS THE WOUNDED WHO SHALL WAIT FOR A RETURN.

WE CAN BETTER TEND TO THEIR NEEDS HERE.



NO! THE SLIM TOTAL OF YOU ALL BARELY MATCH THE WEIGHT OF ONE KONG!

IF ANY LIFE STAYS, IT SHOULD BE ONE OF THE THEM!

YOUR FATHER HAS DECIDED, K'RETI.

AND WITH SO FEW KONG, EACH WILL BE VITALLY NECESSARY IN REBUILDING. WHILE THE SICK--



--NEED THEIR SHAMAN.

EXCUSE ME?!

YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOUR MEDICINES, YOUR PRAYERS.

BESIDES-- YOUR GODS PROTECT YOU, YES?

THEN THE BEST CHANCE THESE PEOPLE HAVE IS IN YOUR GRACE.



...OF COURSE.

WHEN YOU STATE IT AS SUCH, I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD REFUSE...

MY ANNOINTED AND I WILL TEND MATTERS HERE, MY HEART. GO TO SAFETY.





SAFETY?

THAT IS NOT AN OPTION.

A SHIP OF YOUR PEOPLE SET SAIL BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO TELL THEM--

--UNTIL THE WINDS CHANGE-- THESE TIDES FLOW TO HELL ITSELF.

TO SKULL ISLAND!



WE SAILED FOR FEEDING GROUNDS--BUT WE FOUND MONSTERS.

THINGS CAME AT US FROM THE WATER, THE LAND--EVEN THE AIR!

NO...

THEY SLAUGHTERED US! I LOST A THIRD OF MY FRIENDS--

--AND WE HAD KONG TO FIGHT WITH US!



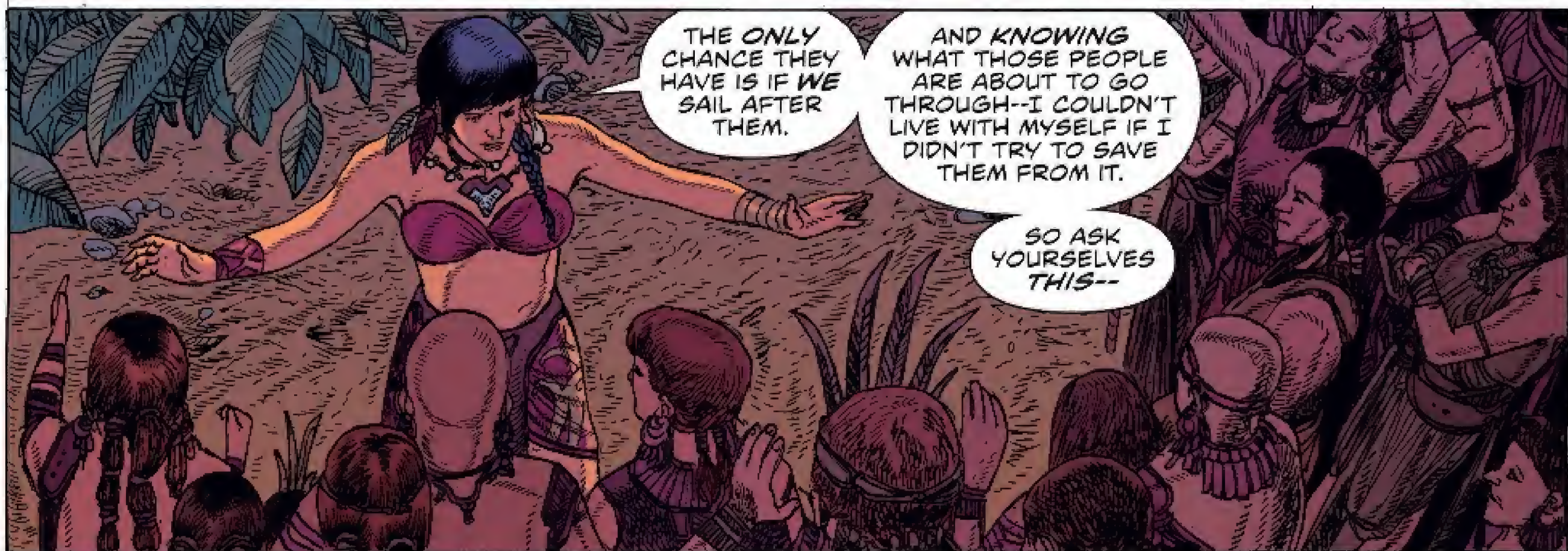
SO THOSE ATU BASTARDS WILL DIE!

JUSTICE FOR TAKING A HALF-EMPTY SHIP AND LEAVING US FOR DEAD!

IF WE KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE, WHY NOT SIMPLY...DRIFT UNTIL A SEA CHANGE?



BECAUSE I WOULDN'T WISH THIS HORROR ON THE VILEST HUMAN ALIVE.



THE ONLY CHANCE THEY HAVE IS IF WE SAIL AFTER THEM.

AND KNOWING WHAT THOSE PEOPLE ARE ABOUT TO GO THROUGH--I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I DIDN'T TRY TO SAVE THEM FROM IT.

SO ASK YOURSELVES THIS--





--WHAT KIND OF FUTURE DO WE HAVE, AS A PEOPLE, IF IT HAS TO BE BUILT ON A BRUTAL DISREGARD FOR OUR FELLOW MAN?

THIS WAS ALWAYS OUR SHIP. AND IT'S GOING TO SAVE AS MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE AS WE CAN.



WHETHER YOU JOIN US OR NOT IS UP TO YOU.

...BUT WE'RE TAKING THE KONG.



WE HAVE TO SAIL THE THIRD SHIP, THEN.

THERE ARE ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO WAIT OUT THE WINDS.



WE ALL SAIL TOGETHER.

THOSE ARE YOUR PEOPLE IN DANGER! WE WILL HAVE A FRACTIONAL, POISONED FUTURE IF WE DON'T HELP THEM.

IF WHAT SHE SAID IS TRUE--WE WILL HAVE NO FUTURE IF WE GO!

PLEASE, K'RETI--I AM YOUR WIFE. AND I BEG YOU--



EWATA IS MY WIFE.

THIS MARRIAGE IS A PEACE TREATY.



THE POOR SOULS ON THAT ISLAND--





--FLED FIRE AND DESTRUCTION TO FIND ONE THIRD OF THEIR CHANCES ALREADY DASHED.



THOUGH THE STORYTELLER IS TASKED WITH PRESENTING OUR HISTORY AS OTHERS SAW IT--

--I FEEL COMPELLED TO CONFESS THAT THE FINAL FATES OF MANY IN THESE HOURS WILL BE LOST TO TIME.



SMILE, CHILD! YOU SURVIVED.

WE EVEN PULLED THE STORYTELLER ON INSURANCE AGAINST ANY WRATH-OF-GOD.



WHILE DEATH ITSELF MAY BE A CERTAINTY, THE FORM IT TAKES FOR EACH OF US IS UNIQUE, AND TRAGIC NONETHELESS.

LAND!  
A NEW LAND  
STRAIGHT DOWN  
THE MOON'S  
PATH!



LAND!  
ALREADY?

GRAB YOUR  
THINGS!

IF WE'RE  
FIRST OFF  
THE SHIP--WE  
CAN CLAIM  
THE BEST  
PLOTS!

AND JUST AS  
OUR CHOICES  
IN LIFE CAN  
DEFINE US--





--THE NATURE OF OUR DEATHS  
OFTEN PROVIDES THE FINAL  
RESULT OF THOSE CHOICES.

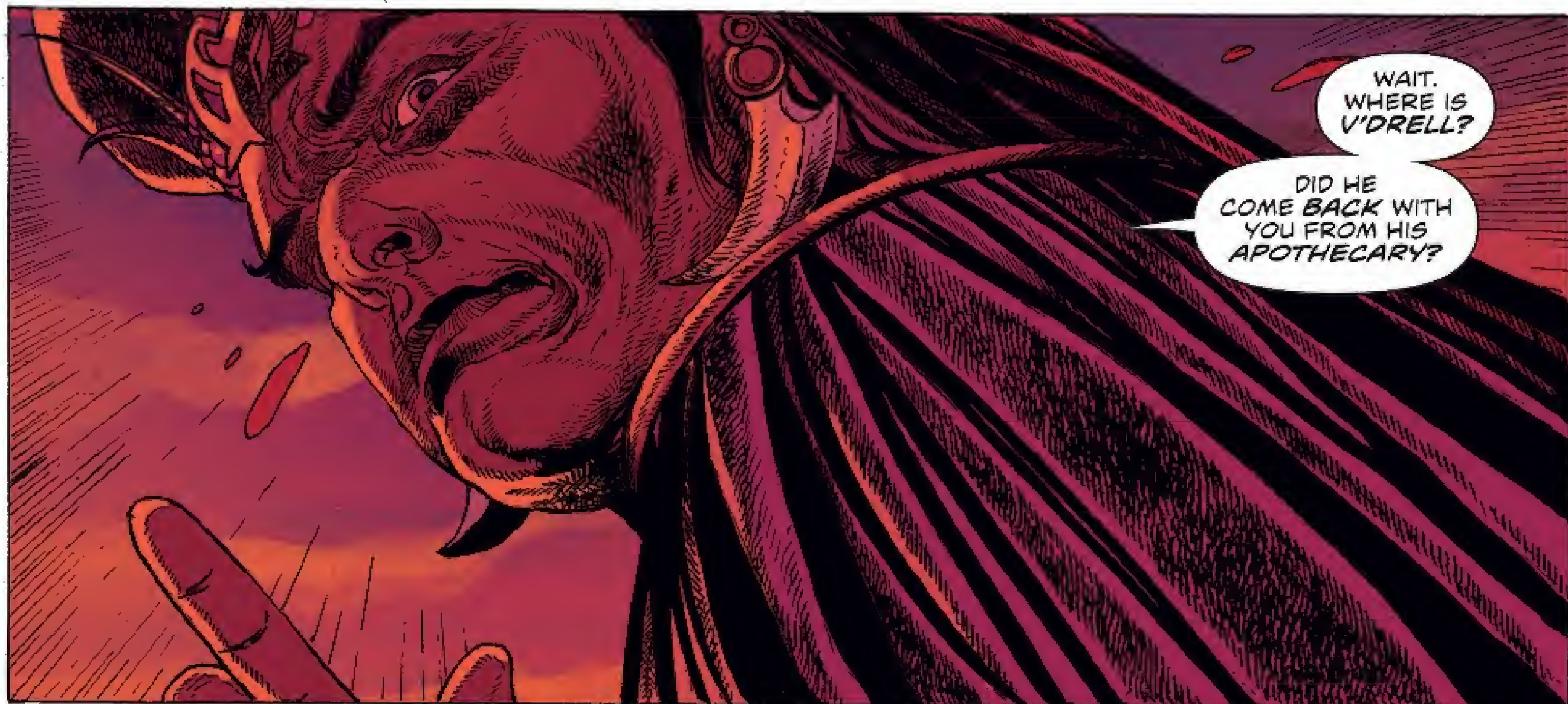


WHILE THE DEATHS OF OTHERS PROVIDE  
LESSONS IN CONSEQUENCE.

ABLE TO  
GATHER THE  
MEDICINES?

AYE.

GOOD.  
THE WORST  
ARE--



WAIT.  
WHERE IS  
V'DRELL?

DID HE  
COME BACK WITH  
YOU FROM HIS  
APOTHECARY?



THE  
SHAMAN?  
HE DIDN'T  
TAKE US  
THERE.

HE  
REMEMBERED  
HIS EQUIPMENT  
HAD ALREADY  
BEEN LOADED  
ONTO ONE OF  
THE SHIPS--



--AND HE  
SENT YOU  
BACK AHEAD  
OF HIM?

GUTLESS  
HYPOCRITE...

THE HIGH  
SHAMAN IS OF  
TRUE FAITH,  
TAGU.

AND  
SO ARE  
WE.





SO WHEN THE  
GODS DEMAND A  
CLEAN BREAK  
FROM THIS OLD  
WORLD--

--IT IS OUR  
BLESSING  
TO SEE IT  
THROUGH!

PRAISE THE  
GODS! GLORY  
TO THE NEW  
WORLD!



PRAISE THE  
GODS! GLORY  
TO THE NEW  
WORLD!



PRAISE  
THE GODS!

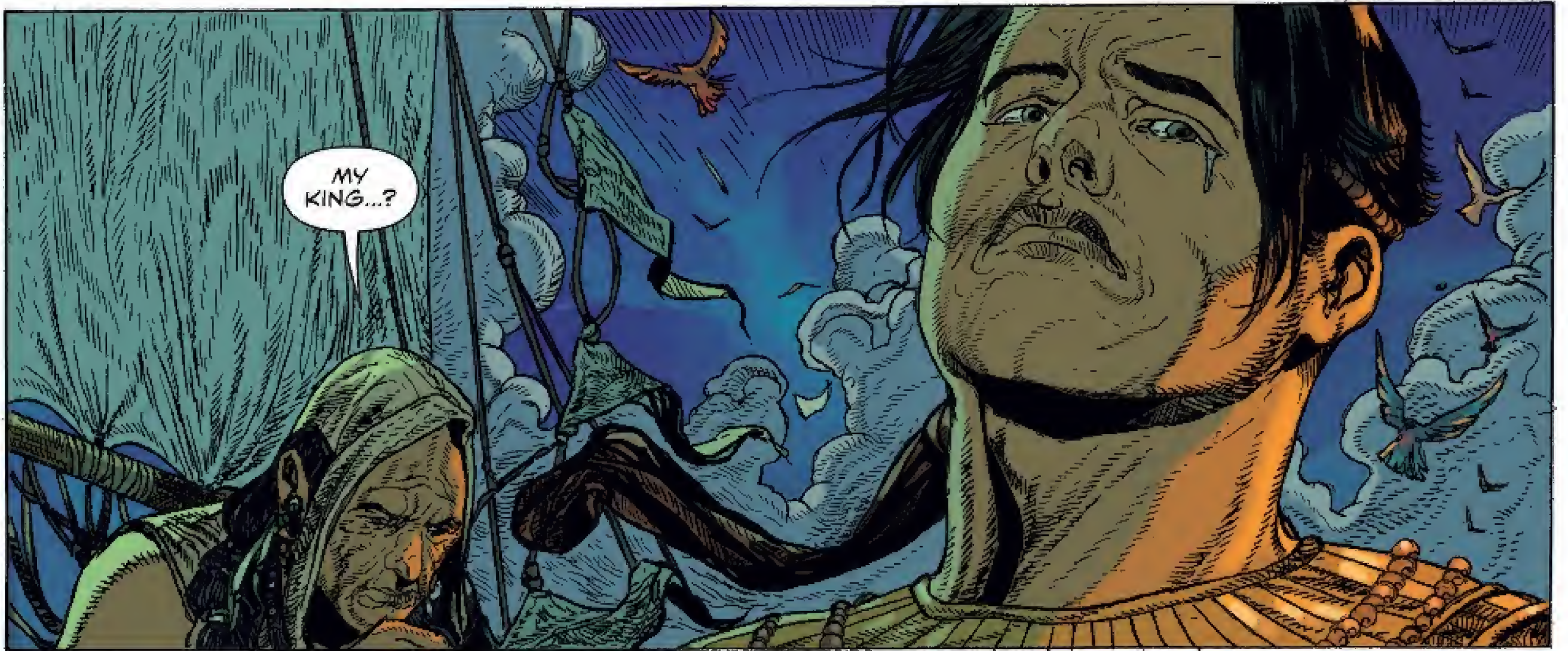
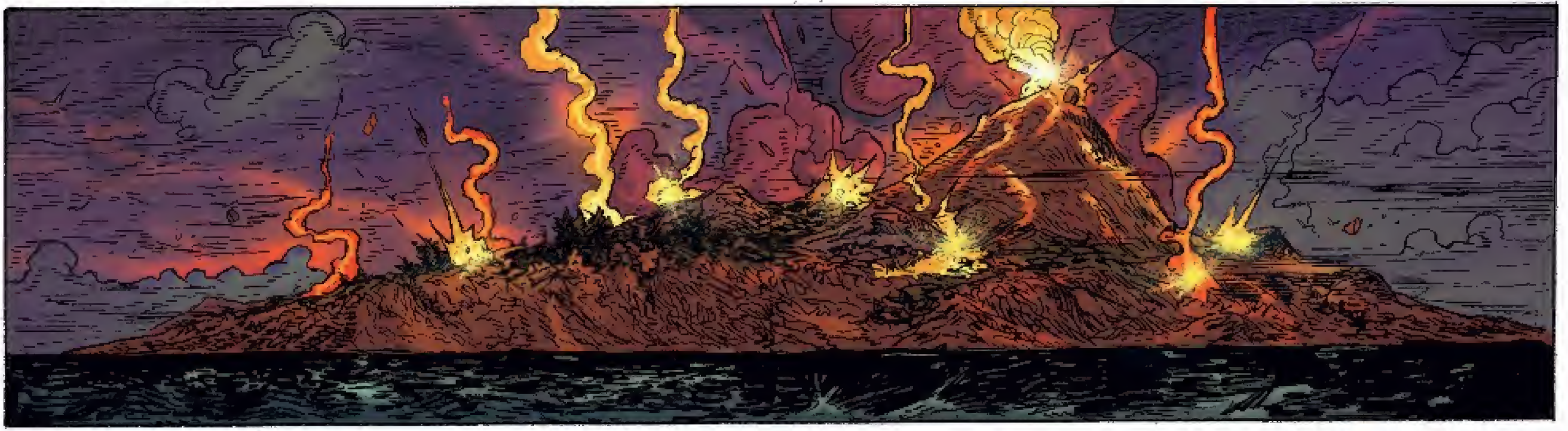
GLORY  
TO THE NEW  
WORLD!



PRAISE  
THE GODS!  
GLORY TO  
THE NEW  
WORLD!

MAY THIS  
SACRIFICE  
RETURN US TO  
GREATNESS!





MY  
KING...?



QUEEN USANA  
REQUESTS YOU  
JOIN HER  
BELOW DECK.



EH...  
USANA?

I KNOW  
YOU MUST BE  
WORRIED, BUT  
I THINK OUR  
PEOPLE WOULD  
FEEL BETTER TO  
SEE US--



--TOGETHER.

WHAT  
THEY NEED IS  
A **STRONG**  
HAND TO GUIDE  
THEM...





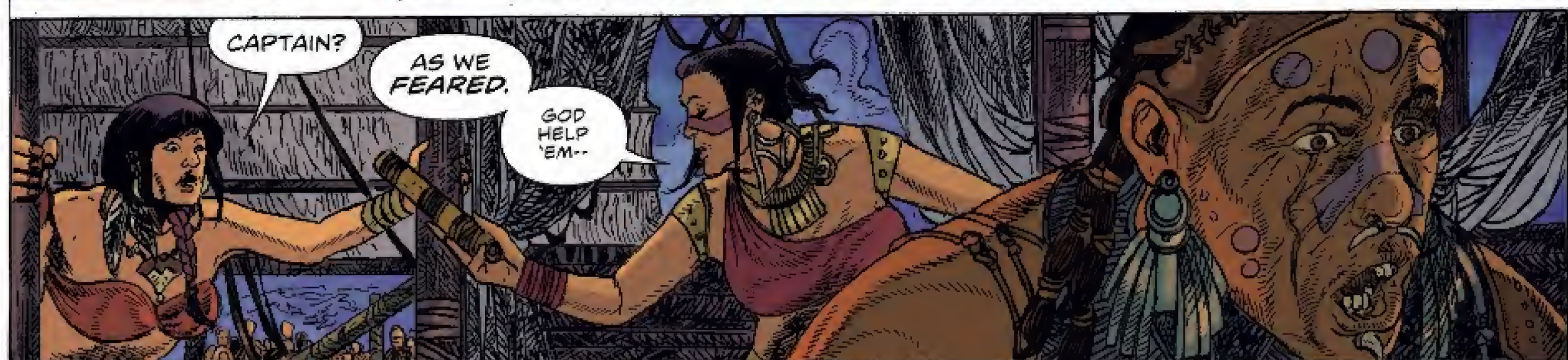
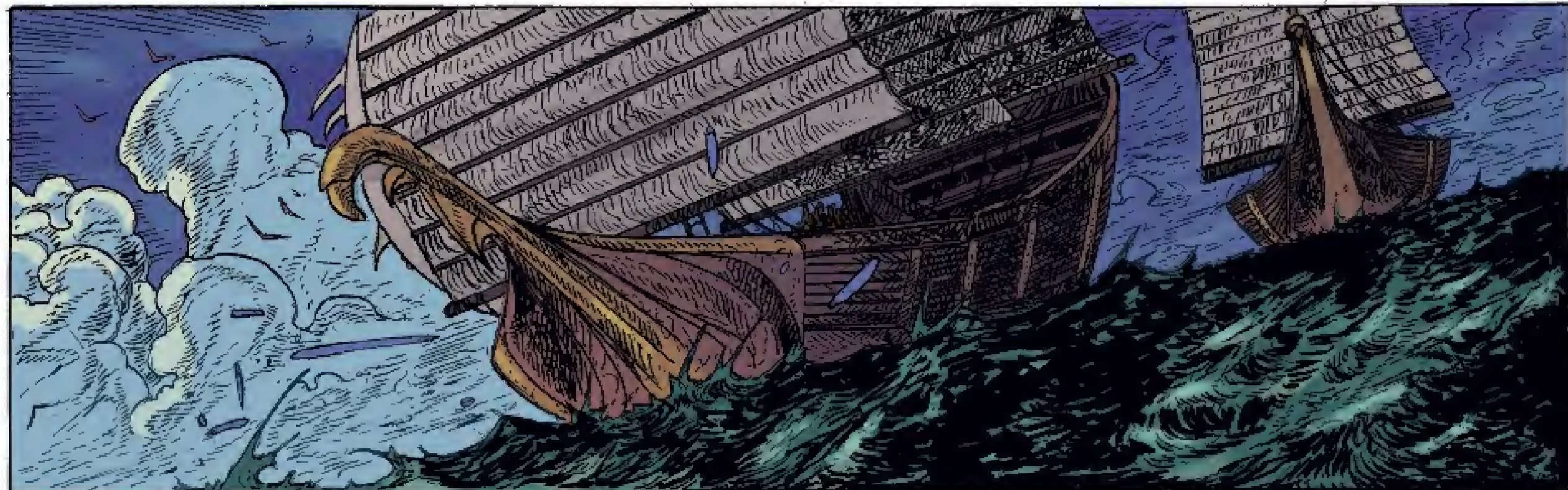
OUR PEOPLE  
NEED STRONG  
LEADERSHIP--  
NOW MORE THAN  
EVER.

THE TAGU  
AND ATU  
WILL STAND  
AS ONE  
PEOPLE--

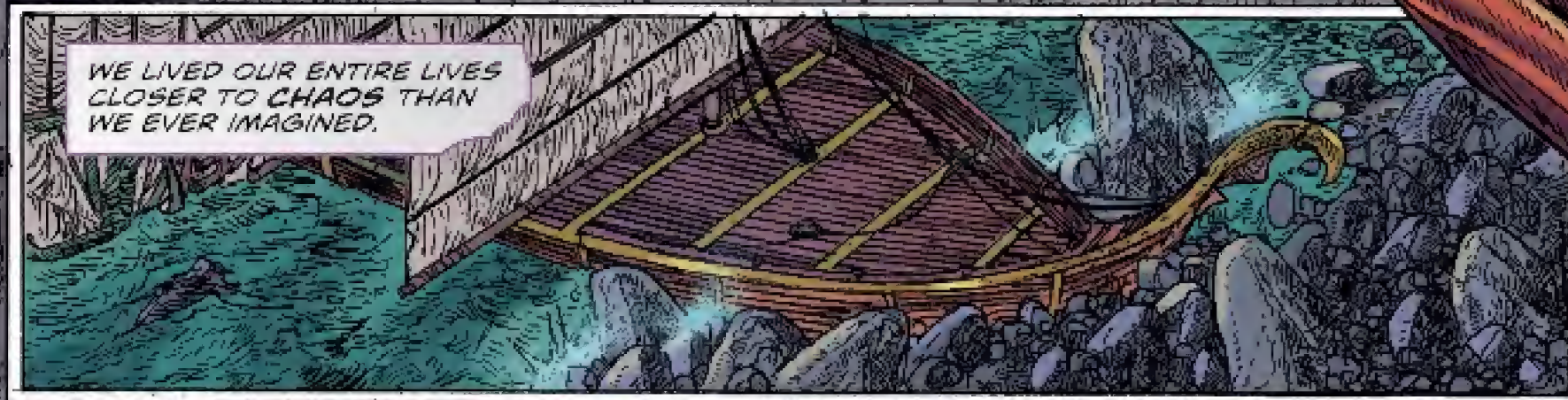
PRAISE THE  
GODS. GLORY  
TO THE NEW  
WORLD.







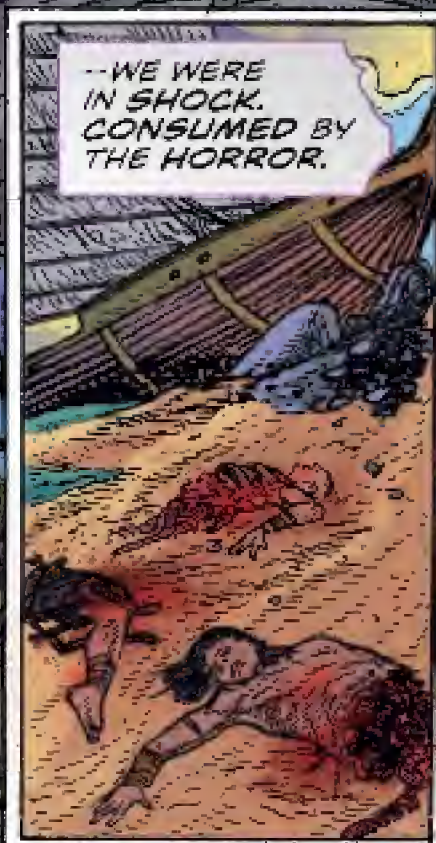




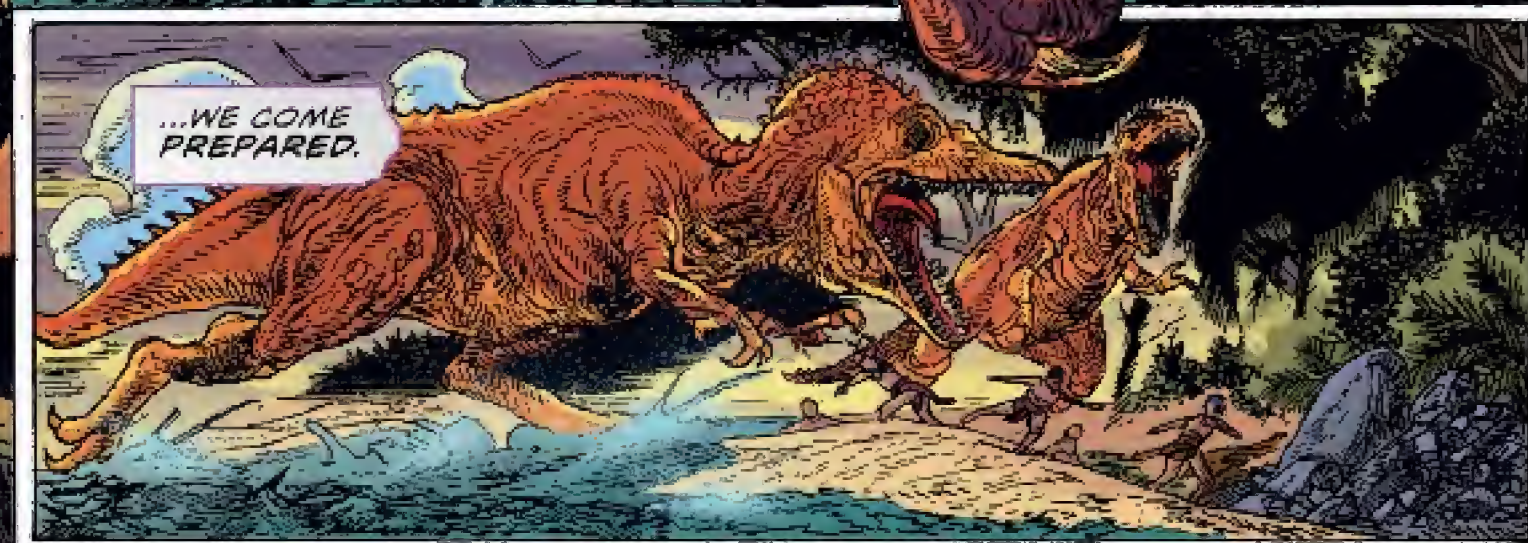
WE LIVED OUR ENTIRE LIVES  
CLOSER TO CHAOS THAN  
WE EVER IMAGINED.



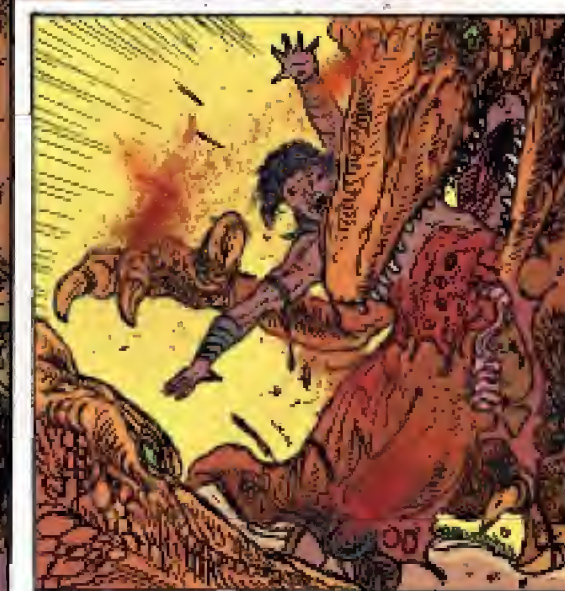
WHEN THE  
TERROR HIT--



--WE WERE  
IN SHOCK,  
CONSUMED BY  
THE HORROR.

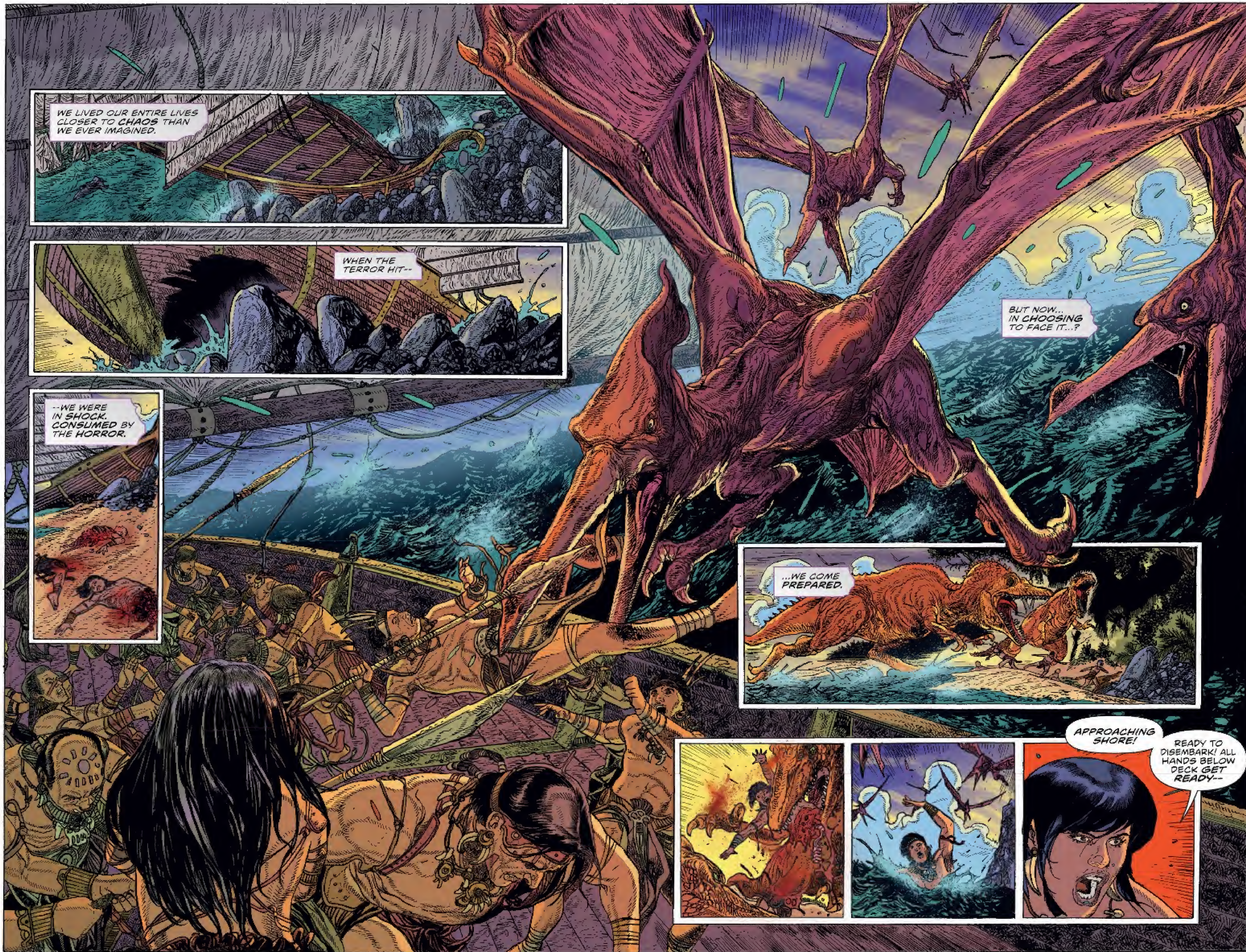


...WE CAME  
PREPARED.




APPROACHING  
SHORE!

READY TO  
DISEMBARK! ALL  
HANDS BELOW  
DECK GET  
READY--







"--FOR  
WAR!"

TO BE CONTINUED...



# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON

NO. 4  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS





WE FLED A WORLD  
OF FIRE--

--ONLY TO LAND ON AN  
ISLE OF DEMONS.

DESPERATE TO ESCAPE OUR  
CRUMBLING HOME, WE SAILED  
BLINDLY INTO SAVAGE CHAOS--

--AND I FEAR IT WILL  
PULL EVERY KIND SOUL  
AMONG OUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS ALONG IN  
OUR WAKE.

THE ARCAINE ACCOUNTS  
OF SKULL ISLAND  
APPEAR TO BE TRUE.

I CAN ATTEST AS  
EYE WITNESS THAT  
CREATURES OF  
PURE VIOLENCE  
BURST FROM EVERY  
BRUSH--AND  
DESCEND FROM  
EVERY CLOUD.

TUNO--?

--CRUSH.

I ONLY PRAY THAT I MAY  
BE THE FINAL WITNESS  
TO THIS HORROR.

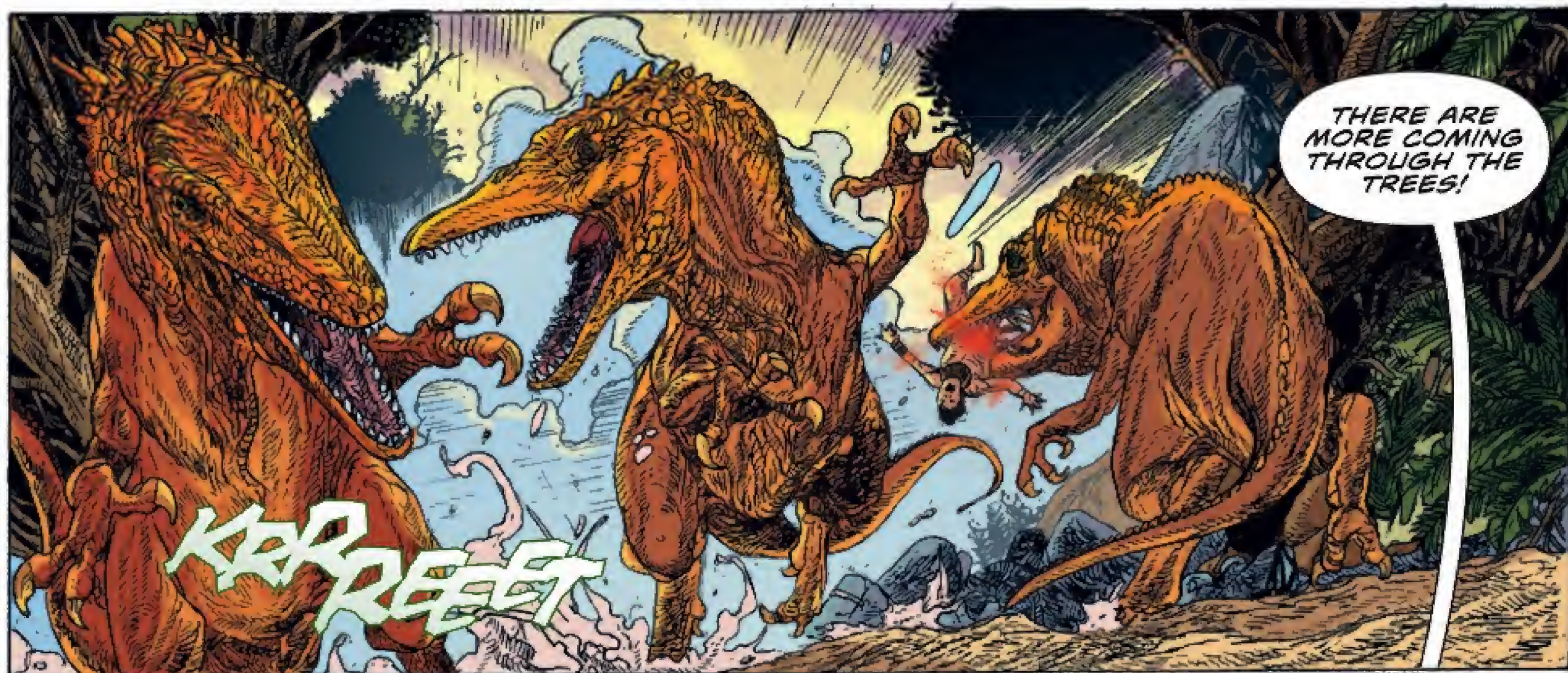
AND IF THESE JAWS OF  
HELL CONSUME ME, MAY  
MY BODY BE ENOUGH TO  
END THEIR--

WHAT'S  
THIS--?

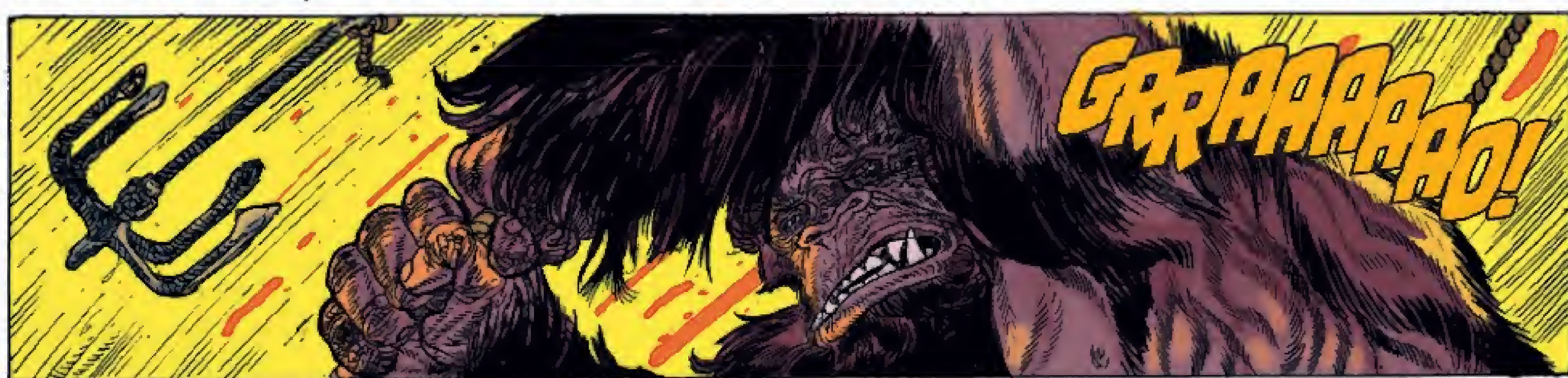
COUSIN...?!

NO...  
PLEASE,  
NO...

































THANK  
THE  
GODS!

BUT  
HOW--?



IF YOU HAD  
WAITED FOR THE  
REST OF US--YOU  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
WARNED WHERE  
THESE WINDS WOULD  
CARRY YOU.



BELIEVE  
ME...I  
REGRET MY  
DECISION.



BUT AS A FATHER,  
I TOOK THE CHANCE,  
I HAD TO INSURE  
MY FAMILY.

THEY HAVE  
SUFFERED  
ENOUGH FOR  
MY CHOICE.

I WILL TAKE  
WHATEVER  
PUNISHMENT IS  
DESERVED FOR  
TAKING A SELFISH  
PATH.

HMM. THERE  
MAY NOT BE  
PUNISHMENT,  
AS SUCH...



"...BUT THERE  
WILL CERTAINLY  
BE SACRIFICES  
TO BE MADE."

TELL ME,  
ATU...

...WHERE DO  
YOU ADD THESE  
MONSTERS  
TO YOUR  
INNUMERABLE  
GODS?

NOWHERE.

I WAS  
SIMPLY  
WONDERING  
IF THEY ARE  
SAFE TO  
EAT.

GAP  
SECURED!

GOOD, BUT  
HOLD YOUR  
BREATH.

GRET, GET YOUR  
KONG TO GATHER  
WATER AND DOUSE  
THE FIRE BEFORE  
IT REACHES THE  
WALL.

K'TAWN? YOU  
WORKED IN THE  
APOTHECARY?

YES--  
DISCOVERIES  
AND MEDICINES.

CAN YOU  
MIX SOMETHING  
TO SEAL AND  
REINFORCE--

EWATA--?





COUSIN?!

OH  
THANK  
GOD,  
SANI!

I  
FOUND YOUR  
RECORDS AND  
THOUGHT  
YOU...!



SO MANY PEOPLE  
WE COULDN'T...  
DIDN'T...

TRUST ME.  
YOU WILL BE  
REMEMBERED FOR  
ALL OF US YOU  
SAVED.



SNFF! WELL  
ENOUGH!

WE  
CAN'T LOSE  
MOMENTUM.  
KEEP BREAKING  
THE SHIP.

ONCE THE  
BARRIER IS  
SECURE--SWITCH  
TO MAKING THE  
FIRST SHELTER.



RAID PARTY!  
KEEP YOUR  
ARMOR UP!

SCOUT THE CLIFFS AND  
BEYOND THE ROCKS!  
FIND OUR EXPOSURES  
BEFORE THESE  
MONSTERS DO!



ORDERS,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY?

CIRCLE THE  
ISLAND UNTIL THE  
SHORE IS FULLY  
SECURED.

I WON'T  
RISK MORE  
OF MY  
PEOPLE.





HERE. RELAX.  
WE WILL HAVE  
SHELTER AND  
BEDDING  
TOGETHER  
SOON.



WHAT?  
W-WE CAN'T  
STAY HERE!  
WHY DON'T  
WE SAIL  
BACK--



I UNDERSTAND YOU MUST  
BE DESPERATE TO GET  
OFF THIS ISLAND. BUT WE  
MUST STAY AT LEAST A  
LITTLE LONGER.

NO-  
NO-NO...

WE HAVE  
ANOTHER  
SHIP! WHY  
WAIT?!



AS I UNDERSTAND  
IT? THE SEAS, AS  
THEY ARE, WOULD  
CARRY US INTO  
UNKNOWN  
TERRITORY.

EWATA OF THE TAGU  
KNOWS WHAT WE  
ARE FACING HERE.  
AND SHE HAS  
SECURED US FOR  
THE MOMENT.

WE WAIT TO  
BE REUNITED WITH  
THE REST OF OUR  
PEOPLE. THE TAGU  
AND ATU HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN STRONGEST  
STANDING  
TOGETHER.



STORYTELLER...?

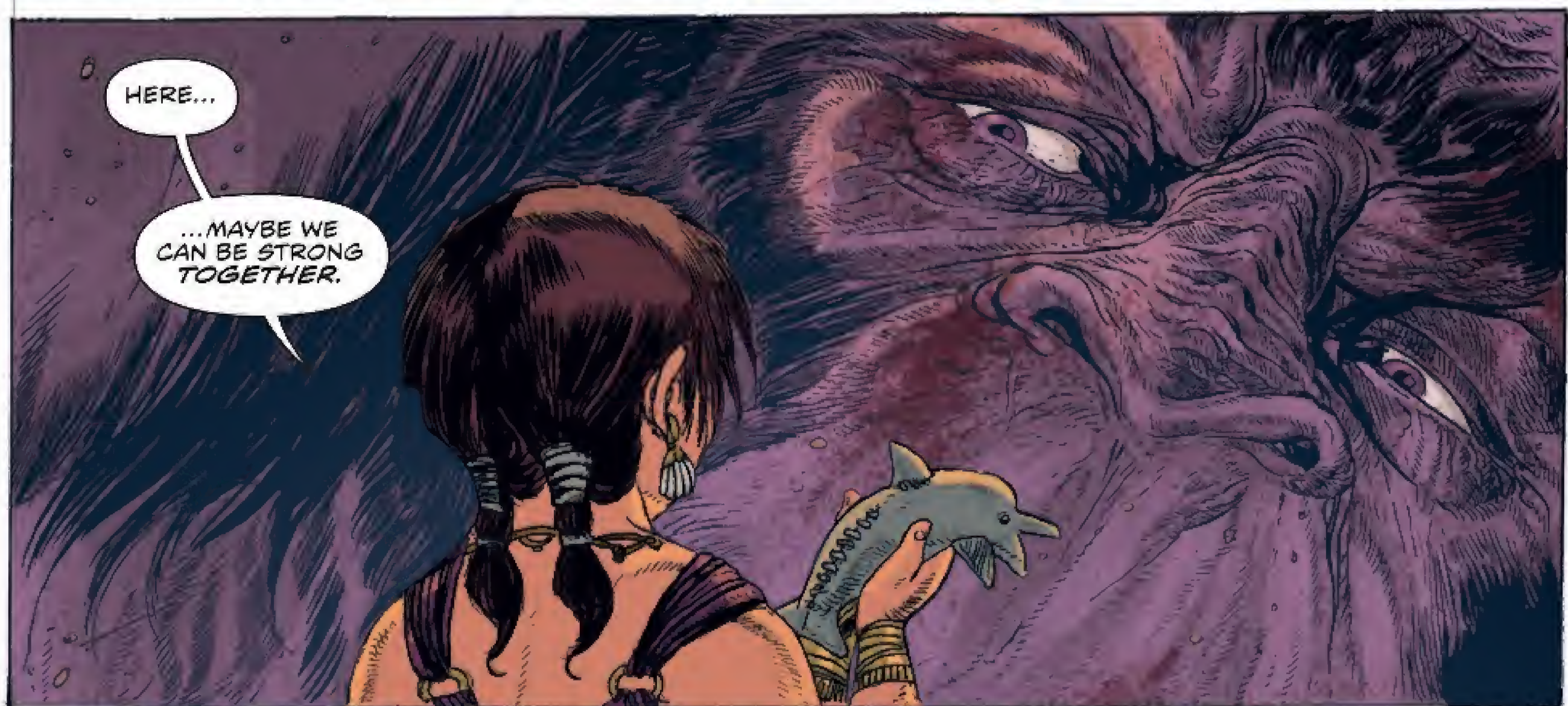
A MAN  
SAID THE  
GODS ARE  
PUNISHING  
US. IS THAT  
TRUE?

OH, DARLING  
HEART--I HAVE  
ALL FAITH THAT  
NO GOD COULD  
HOLD SPIRE FOR A  
SOUL SUCH AS  
YOURS.



BUT I BELIEVE  
THAT--SOMETIMES--  
THE GODS TEST US  
SO THAT WE MAY  
LEARN HOW  
STRONG WE CAN  
TRULY BECOME.









YOU DIDN'T  
SEE THE END,  
DID YOU?

NO.

THE LOOK IN  
HER EYES...  
TRULY, I  
SWEAR B'LAN  
KNEW--



--SHE SACRIFICED  
HERSELF TO SAVE  
THE OTHER KONG.  
TO SAVE ALL OF  
US.



I DOUBT MY  
FRIENDS WOULD  
SACRIFICE  
THEMSELVES LIKE  
THAT.

THE DIVIDE  
BETWEEN MAN  
AND ANIMAL IS  
THINNER THAN  
WE CARE TO  
IMAGINE...

AND IT  
SOUNDS AS  
IF YOU NEED  
BETTER  
FRIENDS.



MBETI! GRET,  
I NEED YOU TO  
KEEP EVERYONE  
ON TASK ONCE  
WE GO.

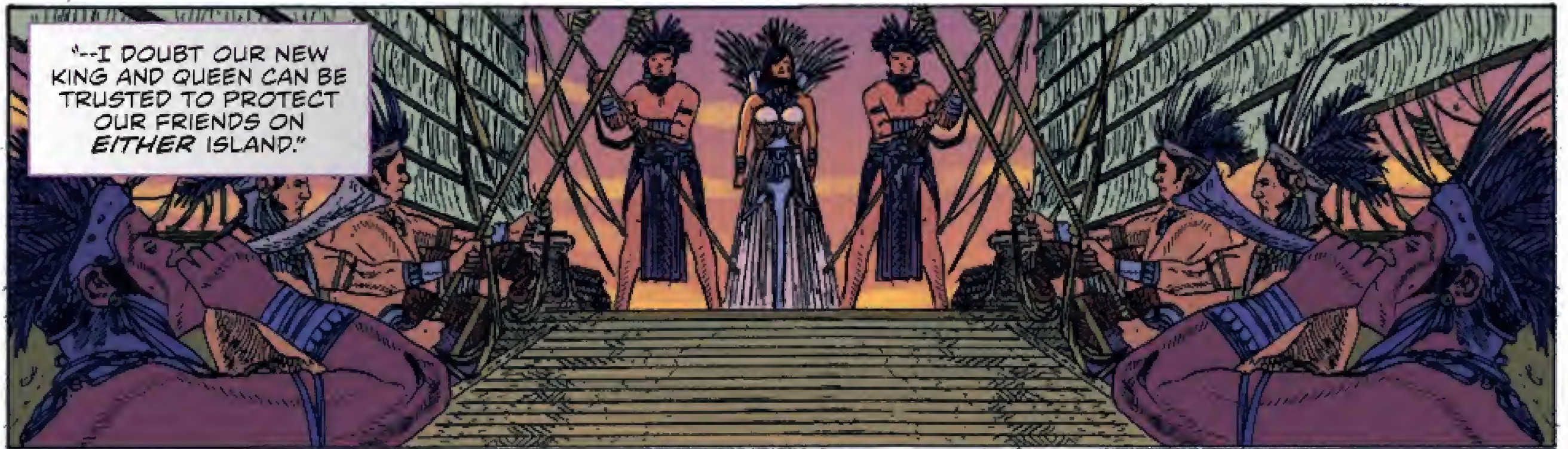
WAIT--EWATA!--  
K'RETI'S SHIP IS  
ABOUT TO LAND.  
DON'T YOU WANT  
TO WAIT TO--?



SOMEONE  
NEEDS TO SAIL BACK  
FOR THE WOUNDED.  
AND KING K'RETI  
HAS PROVEN  
HIMSELF A COWARD  
MORE THAN ONCE  
TODAY.

AFTER  
SEEING THEIR  
SHIP STAY  
BACK AS WE  
FOUGHT--





"--I DOUBT OUR NEW KING AND QUEEN CAN BE TRUSTED TO PROTECT OUR FRIENDS ON EITHER ISLAND."



EWATA? NOW THAT THEY CLEARED THE COVE, WE CAN SAIL. UNLESS...?

OH--I WILL GLADLY MISS ANY POMP AND SPEECHIFYING ABOUT TO--



TAGU PEOPLE! ATU PEOPLE! MY PEOPLE...

...WITH THE HEAVIEST OF HEARTS, AND THE FULL BURDEN OF BEING YOUR NEW QUEEN I MUST DELIVER TRAGIC NEWS.

JUST AS OUR SHIP CRESTED THE HORIZON AWAY FROM OUR HOME...THE NAVIGATORS WITNESSED THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF OUR SACRED ISLE.

THE ERUPTIONS MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH. THEY WITNESSED OUR MOTHERLAND CRUMBLING INTO THE SEA--



--AND, UNDOUBTEDLY, TAKING YOUR FORMER KING, SO MANY OF OUR LOVED ONES, AND MY OWN FATHER WITH IT.

NO... NO, IF WE SAIL NOW, SURVIVORS COULD STILL HAVE SWAM--

EWATA, WE KNEW IT WAS A RISK...

BUT I AM AFRAID TO SAY... THAT WAS NOT THE LAST TRAGIC LOSS WE HAVE SUFFERED...

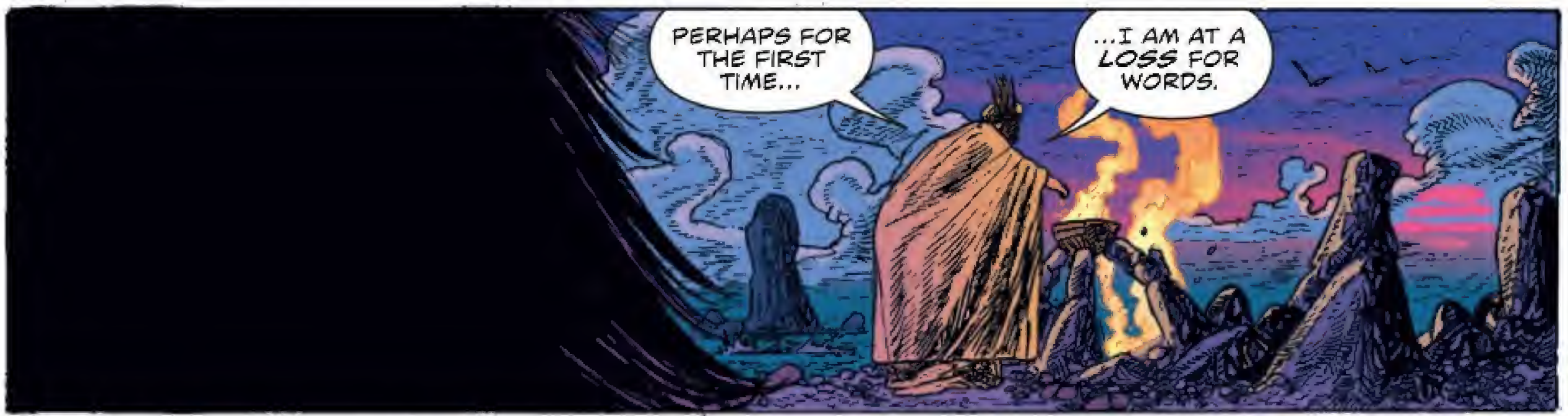












PERHAPS FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME...

...I AM AT A  
LOSS FOR  
WORDS.



I CAN'T...CAN'T  
MAKE IT FEEL  
REAL.

THAT  
ANY OF OUR  
PEOPLE  
WOULD...?



I AGREE,  
COUSIN.

EVEN THE  
CROWN'S FIERCEST  
DISSENSERS HAVE  
STILL HELD DEEP  
RESPECT FOR THE  
ROYAL FAMILY.

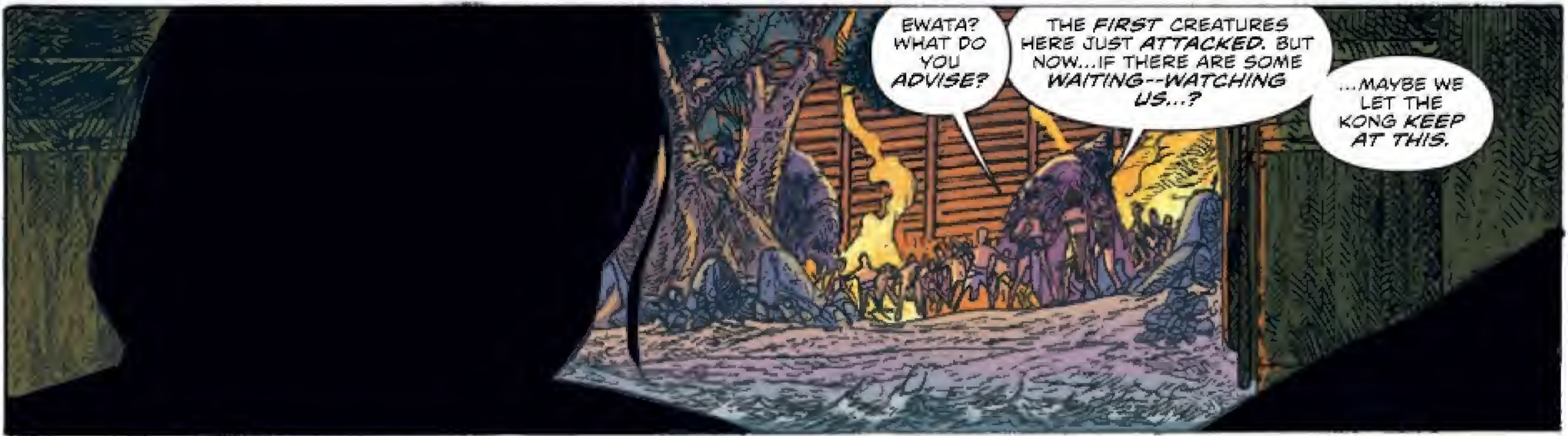
IF THERE IS  
MORE TRUTH TO  
BE UNCOVERED  
HERE...IT IS MY  
SACRED VOW  
TO BRING IT TO  
LIGHT.



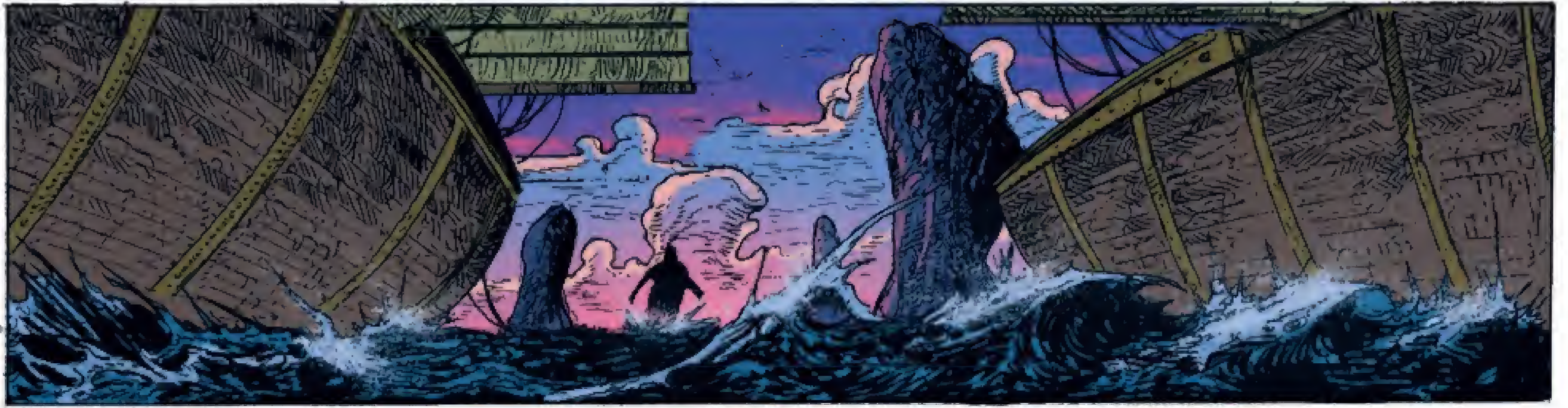
EWATA? I...  
AM SO SORRY  
TO INTERRUPT,  
BUT...

...IT'S THE  
KONG--









PRECIOUS GODS...A MIRACLE!

VDRELL! BROTHERS AND SISTERS! THE GODS HAVE RETURNED OUR SHAMAN TO US!!



BUT HOW...?!

I...CAN SCARCELY EXPLAIN MYSELF. I REMEMBER... CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED. THEN...

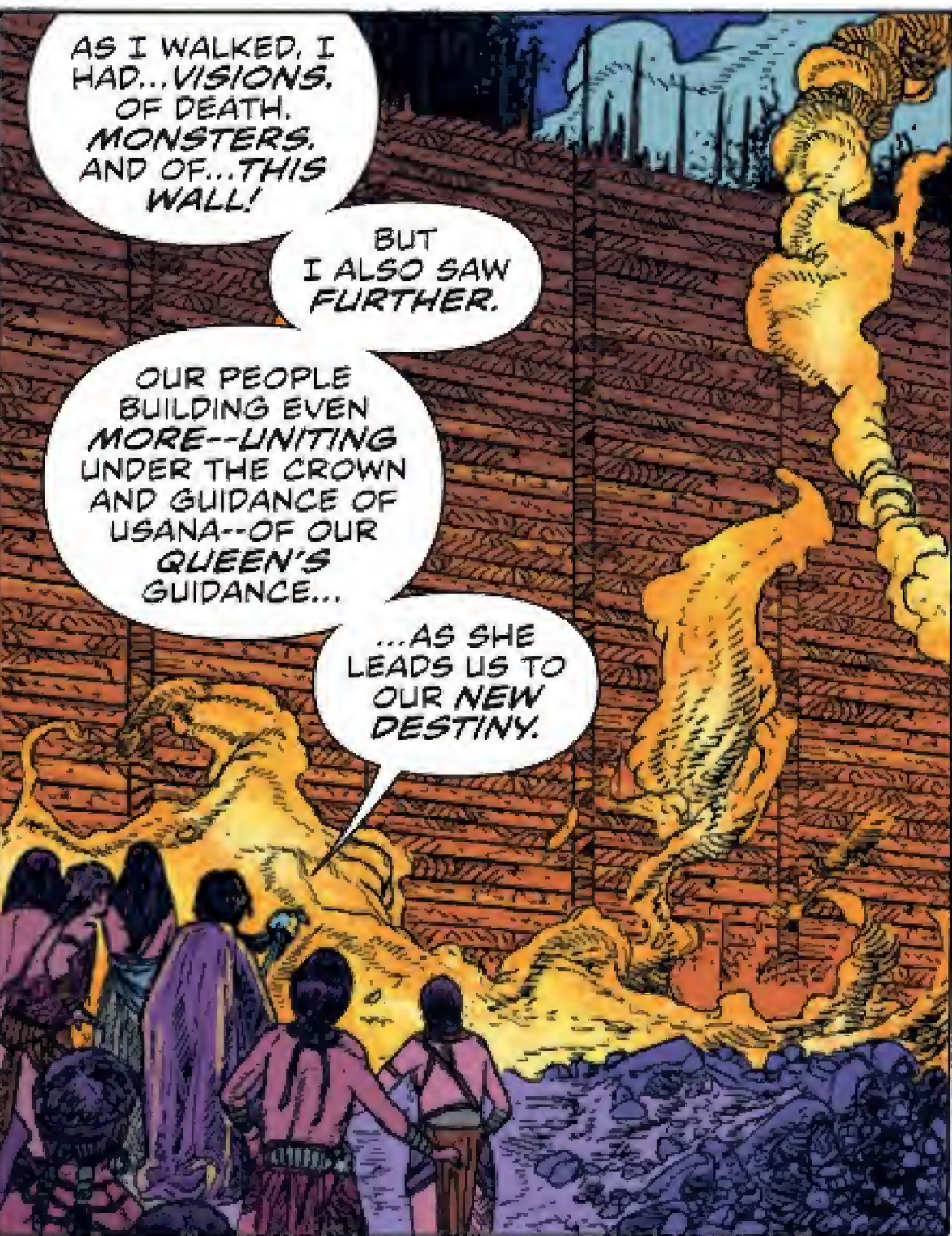
...THE ISLAND SHOOK. COLLAPSED.

SUDDENLY, I FOUND MYSELF... STANDING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. SOMEHOW... PRESERVED.



SO I SIMPLY BEGAN TO WALK.

A MIRACLE! PROOF OF YOUR CONNECTION TO THE GODS!



AS I WALKED, I HAD...VISIONS. OF DEATH. MONSTERS. AND OF...THIS WALL!

BUT I ALSO SAW FURTHER.

OUR PEOPLE BUILDING EVEN MORE--UNITING UNDER THE CROWN AND GUIDANCE OF USANA--OF OUR QUEEN'S GUIDANCE...

...AS SHE LEADS US TO OUR NEW DESTINY.



AFTER THE MIRACLE OF MY SURVIVAL--I CANNOT DOUBT IT...

THE GODS HAVE BROUGHT US HERE.

AND NOT TO COWER ON THE BEACHES...





BUT  
TO HOLD  
DOMINION  
OVER IT  
ALL!

WE  
WILL VENTURE--  
MAN AND KONG  
ALIKE--INTO THE  
BLACK HEART OF  
THIS ISLAND!

AND WE WILL  
CONQUER AND  
CLAIM THE  
SUMMIT AT ITS  
CENTER!

AND WE  
WILL SLAUGHTER  
AND HEEL WHATEVER  
DEVILS WE MUST IN  
ORDER TO CLAIM THIS  
LAND FOR OURSELVES--  
AND FOR THE GLORY  
OF THE GODS!

TO BE CONTINUED...



# KONG


## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON


NO. 5  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS








WHAT REMAINS OF THE  
TAGU-ATU PEOPLE HAVE  
SURVIVED FIVE DAYS ON THE  
SHORE OF SKULL ISLAND--



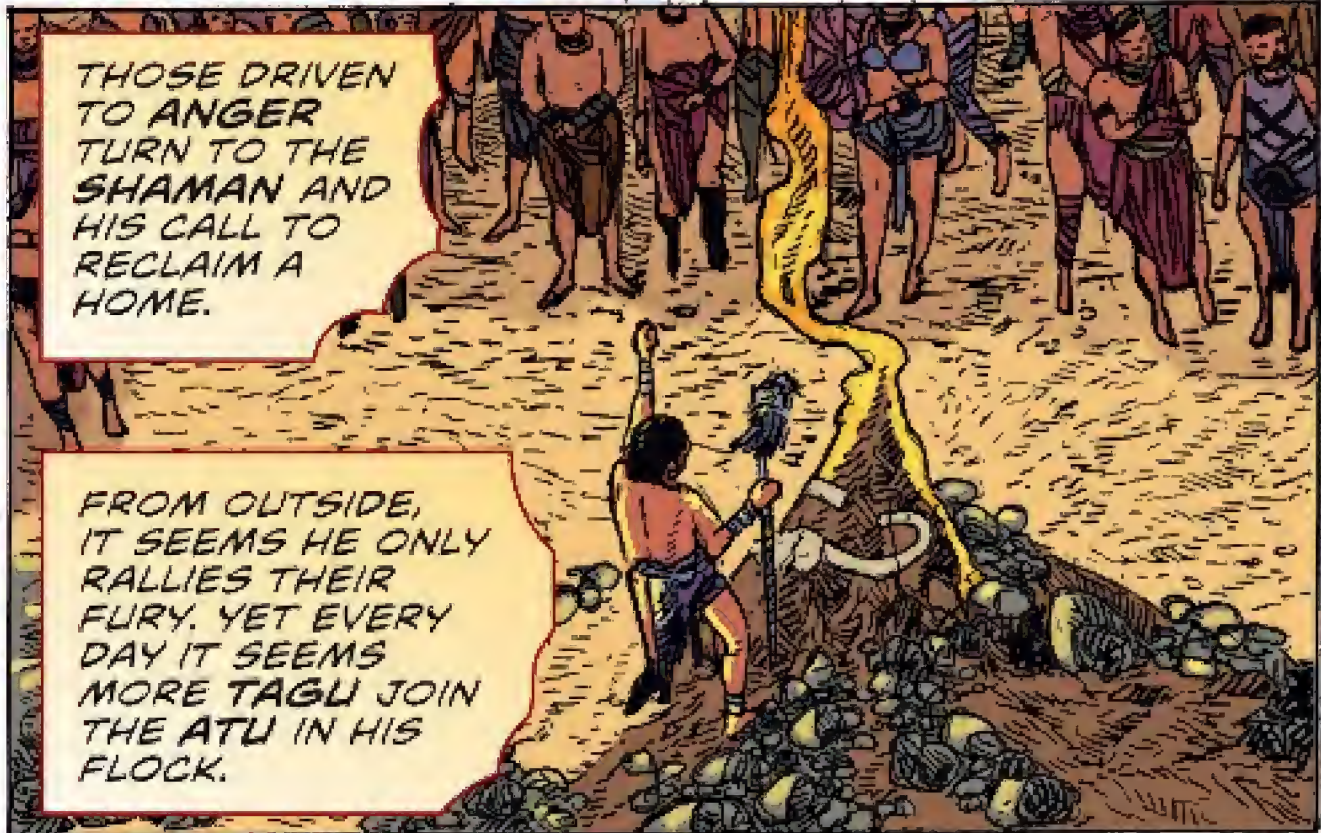
--BUT EACH DAY GIVES  
THE SENSATION OF A  
LIFETIME IN HELL.

MOMMY?!  
WHERE  
DID YOU  
GOOO?



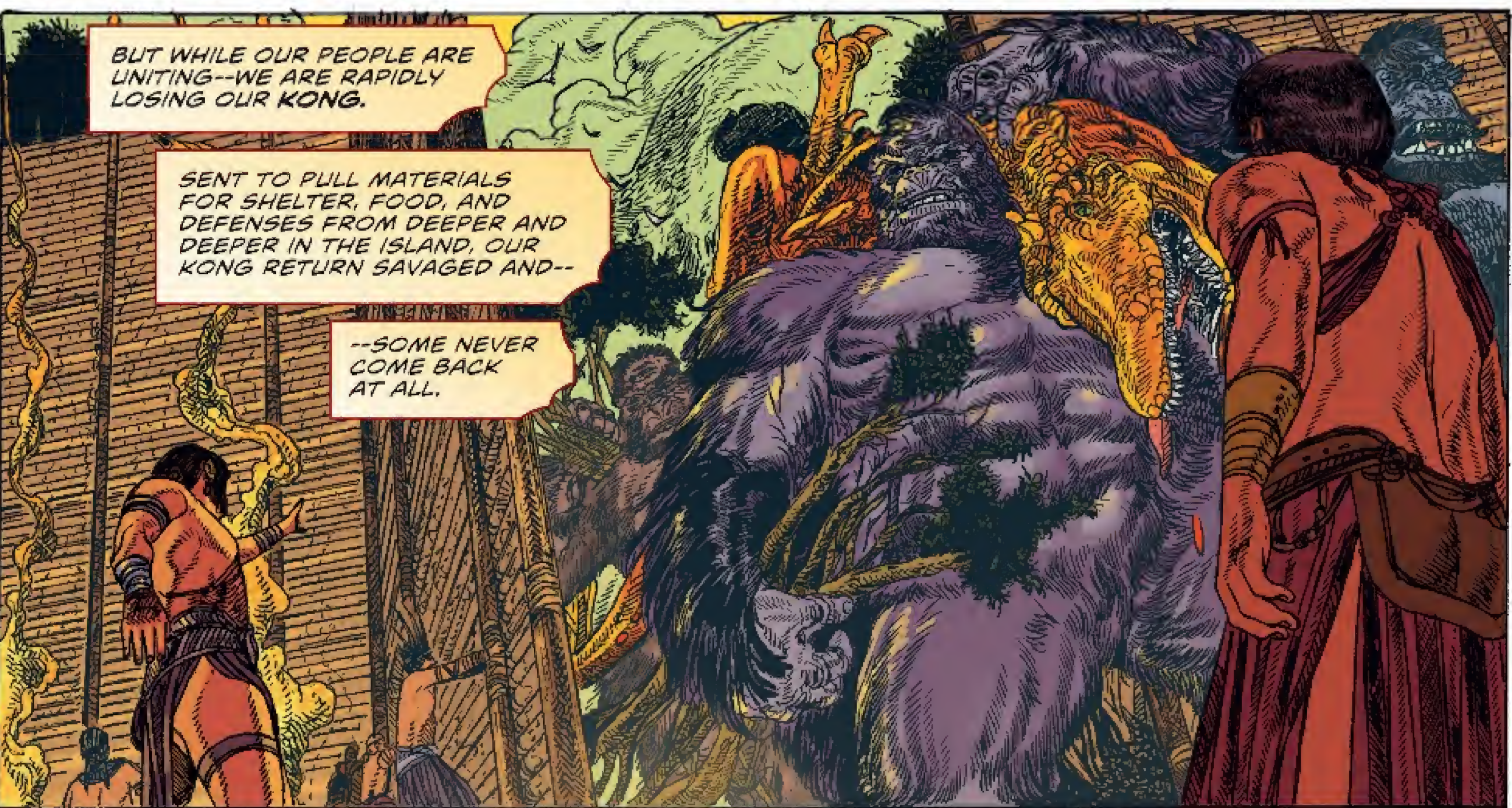
SOME AMONG US  
HAVE BEEN UNABLE  
TO SLEEP A SINGLE  
MOMENT SINCE  
ARRIVING--

--IN CONSTANT DREAD OF  
THE BEASTS, OF ANOTHER  
ERUPTION, OR OF  
SLEEPING THROUGH AN  
EVACUATION.



THOSE DRIVEN  
TO ANGER  
TURN TO THE  
SHAMAN AND  
HIS CALL TO  
RECLAIM A  
HOME.

FROM OUTSIDE,  
IT SEEMS HE ONLY  
RALLIES THEIR  
FURY. YET EVERY  
DAY IT SEEMS  
MORE TAGU  
JOIN THE ATU IN HIS  
FLOCK.



BUT WHILE OUR PEOPLE ARE  
UNITING--WE ARE RAPIDLY  
LOSING OUR KONG.

SENT TO PULL MATERIALS  
FOR SHELTER, FOOD, AND  
DEFENSES FROM DEEPER AND  
DEEPER IN THE ISLAND, OUR  
KONG RETURN SAVAGED AND--

--SOME NEVER  
COME BACK  
AT ALL.





OUR LIVES  
ARE NO  
LONGER  
WHAT THEY  
WERE.



BUT WE DO NOT  
YET KNOW WHAT  
NEW PARADIGM  
AWAITS...



--SACRIFICE! WHEN  
WE OFFER UP ALL WE  
CAN, THE GODS RAIN  
DOWN UPON US  
EVERYTHING WE  
HAVE EARNED!



EWATA...

HOW ARE YOU FAIRING,  
COUSIN?

BADLY.

I VOWED  
TO UNRAVEL  
THE TRUTH OF  
YOUR BELOVED  
K'RETI'S  
MURDER.

BUT I HAVE  
RECORDED THE  
FULL ACCOUNTING  
OF EVERY WOMAN,  
CHILD, AND MAN ON  
THIS ISLAND. NOT  
A SOUL HERE  
WITNESSED HIS  
END.



I AM GRATEFUL  
YOU HAVE TRIED,  
SANI, BUT  
TRUTHFULLY...

I  
FEAR MORE  
FOR MY OWN  
LIFE AT THE  
MOMENT.

ARE YOU IN  
DANGER?

I EXPECT  
I WILL BE,  
AFTER  
THIS--



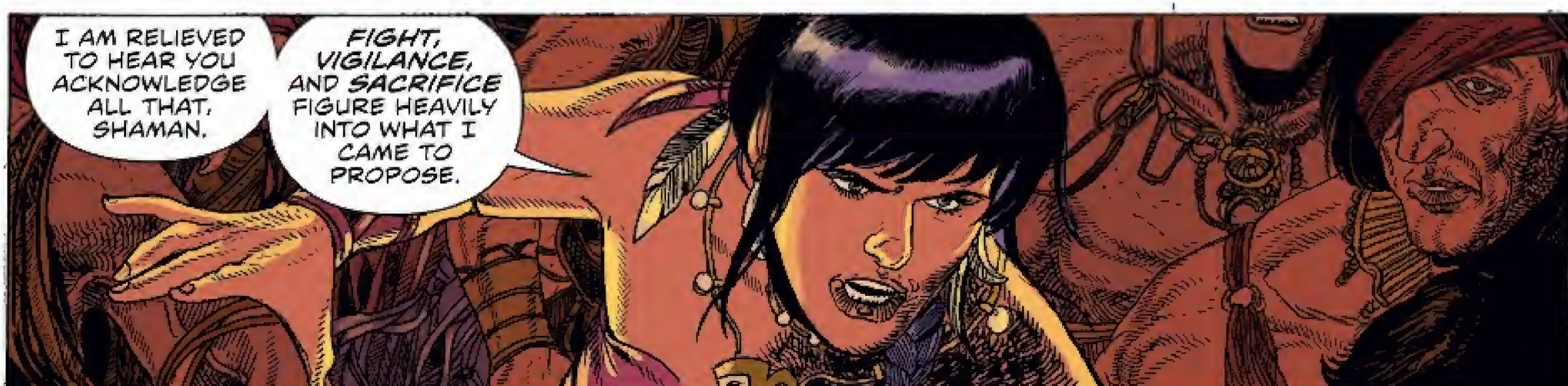


IN DELIVERING US  
HERE, THE GODS  
HAVE ISSUED TO US  
A CHALLENGE!

IN BESETTING  
US WITH DEMONS,  
THE GODS DEMAND  
WE FIGHT FOR OUR  
EXISTENCE!

IN ALLOWING THESE  
MONSTERS TO **STEAL**  
**OFF** WITH WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN IN THE NIGHT,  
THE GODS TEACH US TO  
BE EVER-VIGILANT!

IN **BURNING** OUR  
HOME TO SEND US  
HERE, THE GODS  
DEMONSTRATE THEY  
DEMAND **SACRIFICE**  
IN THEIR NAME!



I AM RELIEVED  
TO HEAR YOU  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
ALL THAT,  
SHAMAN.

**FIGHT,  
VIGILANCE,  
AND SACRIFICE**  
FIGURE HEAVILY  
INTO WHAT I  
CAME TO  
PROPOSE.



AS CHIEF ADVISOR  
TO THE **QUEEN**, I  
WOULD BE HAPPY TO  
DISCUSS POLITICAL  
MATTERS **AFTER**  
OUR RITES--

BUT YOU JUST SAID,  
YOURSELF--THE GODS  
DEMAND ACTION! OUR  
SURVIVAL IS THE  
HIGHEST TESTAMENT  
TO OUR FAITH!

AND IN WORKING  
WITH OUR KONG TO  
SECURE THE FAR SIDE  
OF THE WALL THIS  
MORNING...VALLA  
FOUND A **TRAIL**.

**BLOOD.**  
FROM ONE OF  
YOUR **DEVOTED**.  
SLAUGHTERED AND  
STOLEN BY THE  
**DEMONS** YOU  
RANT AGAINST.



AND FOR THE **FIRST TIME**...WE  
CAN TRACK THIS MONSTER BACK  
TO ITS LAIR. WITH OUR **KONG** AND  
YOUR **BLESSED GUIDANCE**--WE  
CAN FINALLY, FULLY RISE TO MEET  
THIS **CHALLENGE** THE GODS  
HAVE ISSUED US!

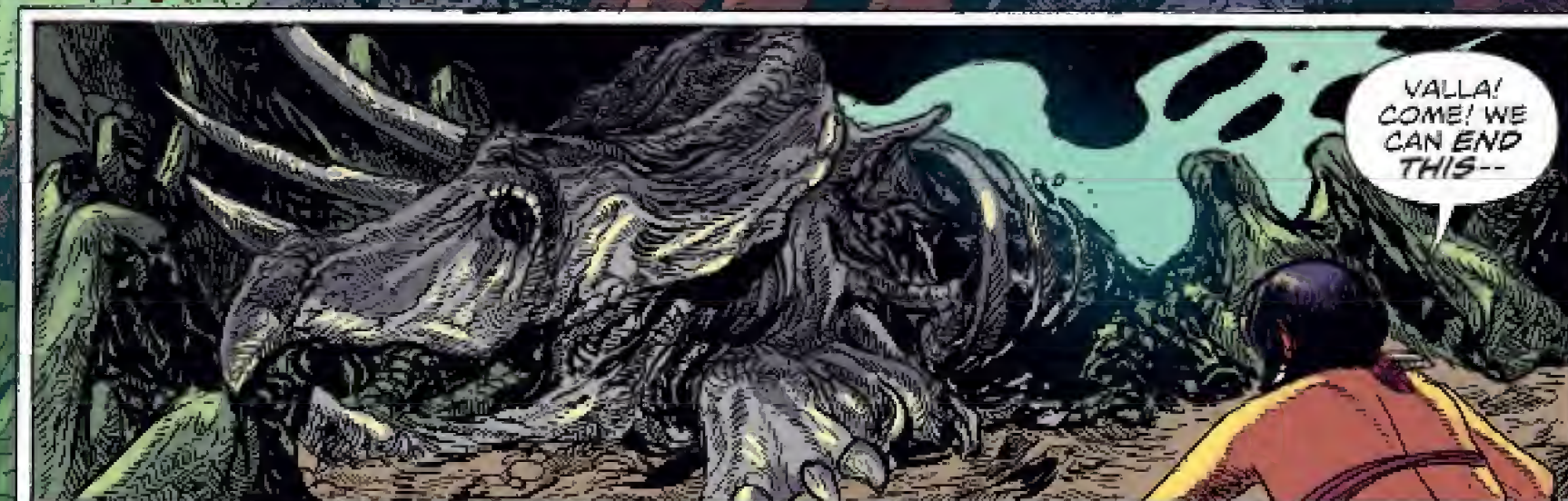
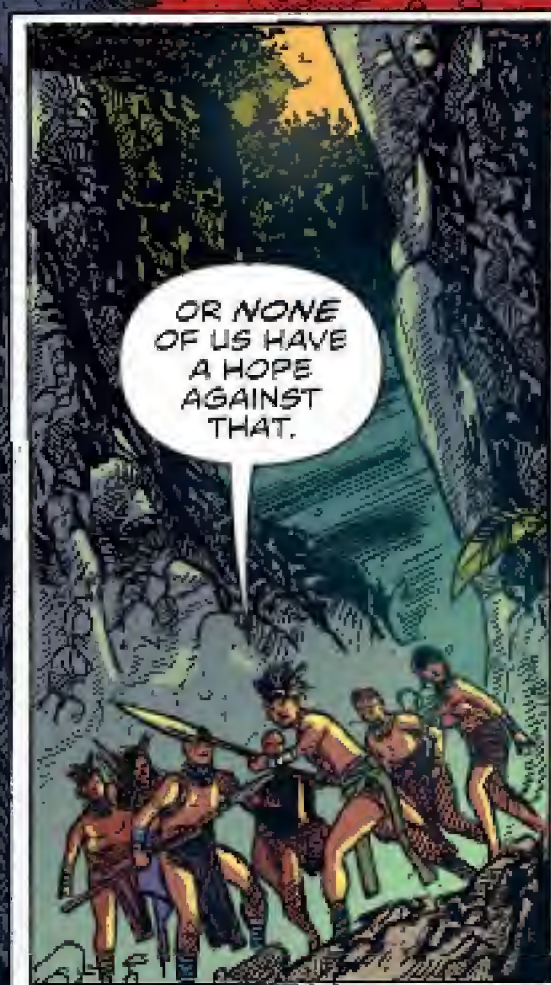


YOU DON'T  
BELIEVE **ONE**  
WORD OF  
THAT.

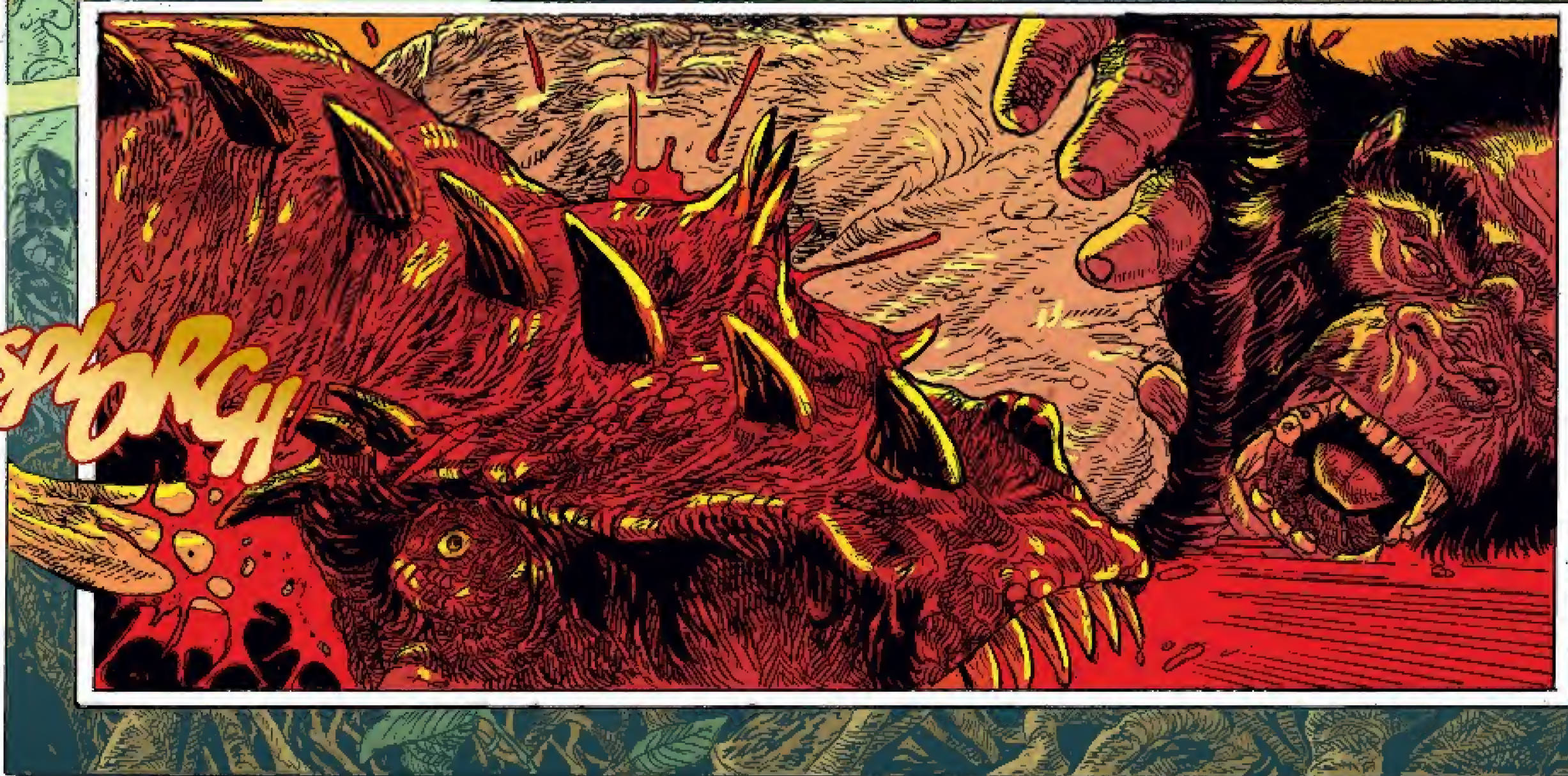
I BELIEVE  
WE NEED TO  
STOP OUR  
PEOPLE FROM  
BEING TAKEN IN  
THE NIGHT.

AND I  
BELIEVE MY  
FRIENDS WILL HAVE  
EVERY RESOURCE  
AND CHANCE OF  
SURVIVAL IF YOU AND  
YOUR DAUGHTER ARE  
MADE TO VENTURE  
**WITH US**.













HMPF

GOOD  
GIRL, VALLA.  
VERY GOOD  
GIRL.



NO, NO.  
UP! GET  
YOUR BEAST  
ON ITS  
FEET!

WE  
HAVE MANY  
LENGTHS  
STILL TO  
GO!

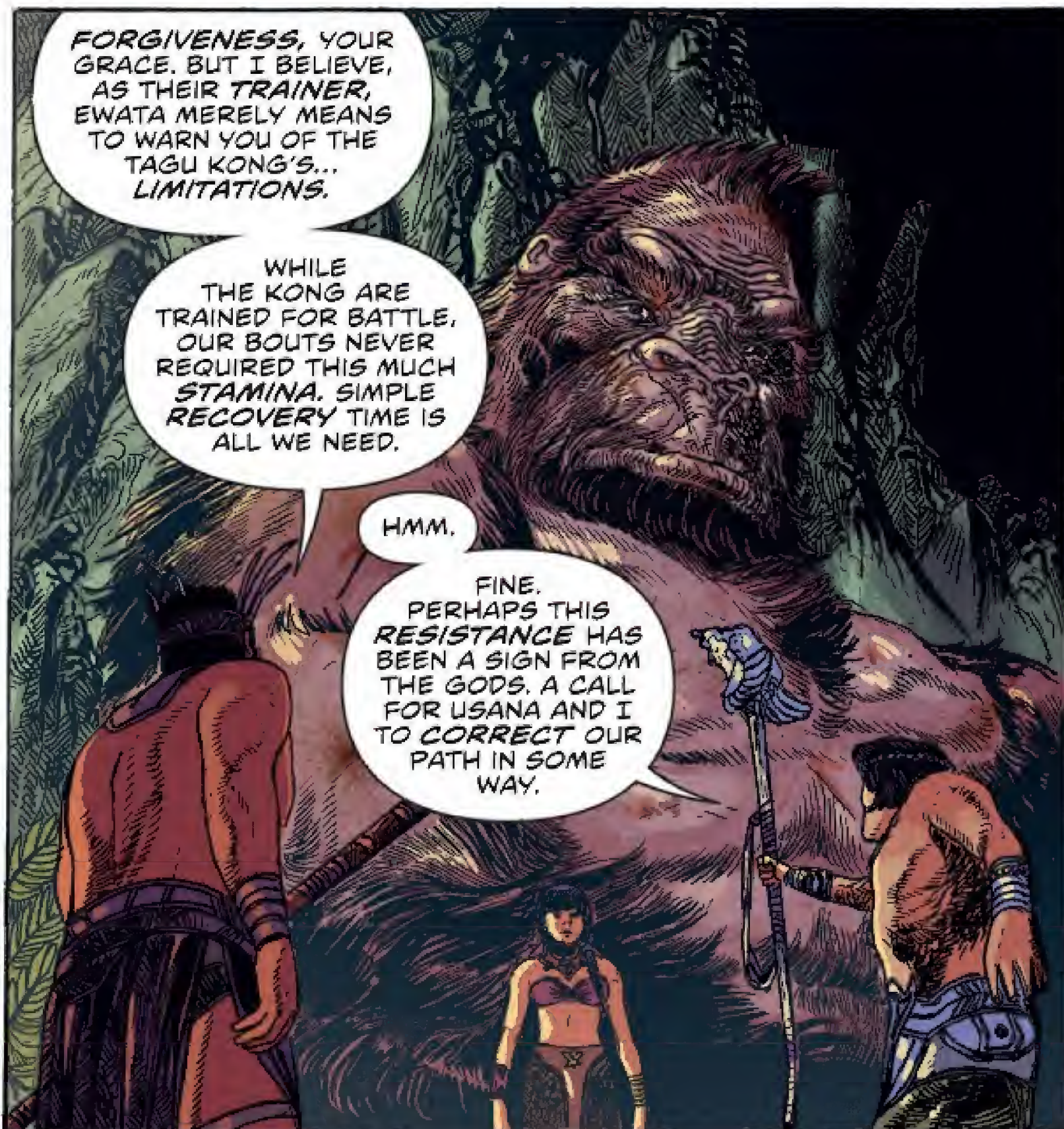


NO.

MONSTERS  
LEAP OUT AT  
EVERY SINGLE  
TURN.

OUR KONG  
HAVE BEEN  
GETTING MORE  
EXHAUSTED AS  
THESE DEMONS  
ONLY GET  
BIGGER AND  
BIGGER!

WATCH  
YOUR TONE,  
GIRL. YOU  
FORGET THE  
NEW  
ORDER--



FORGIVENESS, YOUR  
GRACE. BUT I BELIEVE,  
AS THEIR TRAINER,  
EWATA MERELY MEANS  
TO WARN YOU OF THE  
TAGU KONG'S...  
LIMITATIONS.

WHILE  
THE KONG ARE  
TRAINED FOR BATTLE,  
OUR BOUTS NEVER  
REQUIRED THIS MUCH  
STAMINA. SIMPLE  
RECOVERY TIME IS  
ALL WE NEED.

HMM.

FINE.  
PERHAPS THIS  
RESISTANCE HAS  
BEEN A SIGN FROM  
THE GODS. A CALL  
FOR USANA AND I  
TO CORRECT OUR  
PATH IN SOME  
WAY.



YOU HAVE UNTIL  
THE END OF MY  
PRAYERS AND  
OFFERINGS.

DO MY SENSES  
DECIEVE ME? OR  
DID GRET TRULY  
RISK HIS SHAMAN'S  
IRE TO STAND  
WITH A TAGU?

AHH...  
YOU SAID IT  
YOURSELF,  
MBETI--

--I NEED TO  
MAKE BETTER  
FRIENDS.

THE  
ONLY WAY TAGU  
OR ATU SURVIVE  
THIS HELL--





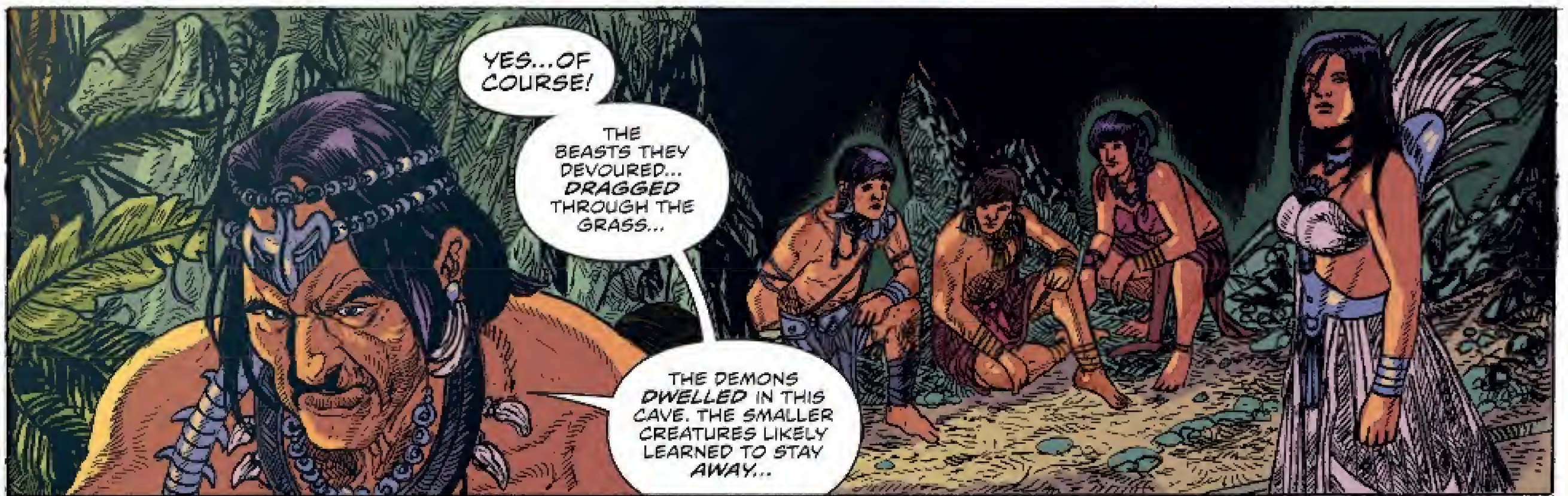
"--IS IF WE START  
LOOKING OUT FOR  
EACH OTHER."

NO  
SIGN OF OUR  
TAKEN PEOPLE.  
THESE WERE NOT  
THE MONSTERS  
WE CAME  
FOR.



TUNO?  
THERE'S BEEN  
NO SIGN OF MORE  
CREATURES.

BUT WE  
BROUGHT  
FOOD. COME  
EAT.



YES...OF  
COURSE!

THE  
BEASTS THEY  
DEVoured...  
DRAGGED  
THROUGH THE  
GRASS...

THE DEMONS  
DWELLED IN THIS  
CAVE. THE SMALLER  
CREATURES LIKELY  
LEARNED TO STAY  
AWAY...



K'TAWN!

DID YOU BRING  
APOTHECARY  
TOOLS?



OF  
COURSE.

AS I WOULD  
WAGER THE SCENTS  
ASSOCIATED WITH  
THESE LARGER DEVILS  
MAY BE THE TRICK TO  
WARDING OFF THE  
SMALLER ONES.





AYE. DO NOT  
LEAN TOO  
HEAVILY ON THE  
FLOWERS.

THEY MAY BE  
CONCENTRATED  
IN THIS AREA, BUT  
THE PHEROMONES  
OF THE GIANT  
ITSELF ARE MORE  
DEFINITELY--

EWATA--  
COULD WE  
SHARE A  
WORD?



THERE  
ARE, NO DOUBT,  
NUMEROUS  
POLITICAL  
REASONS I  
SHOULD NOT  
SAY THIS.

BUT I CAN ONLY  
KEEP THINKING OF  
REASONS YOU  
DESERVE TO  
HEAR IT.

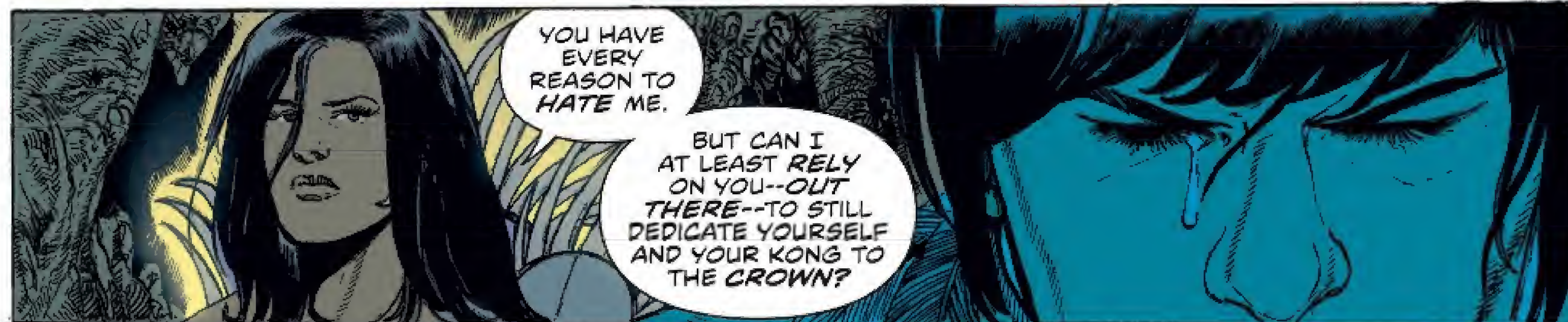
PRINCE  
K'RETI...

...LOVED YOU.  
UNQUESTIONINGLY.  
AND TO THE VERY  
END.

HE  
MADE THAT  
EXPLICITLY  
CLEAR TO  
ME.

THAT OURS WAS ONLY TO BE  
A MARRIAGE OF POLITICAL  
EXPEDIENCE.

HE BELIEVED,  
LIKE HIS FATHER,  
THAT OUR PEOPLE  
NEEDED A SINGLE,  
UNIFIED VOICE OF  
LEADERSHIP TO  
GUIDE THEM  
THROUGH



YOU HAVE  
EVERY  
REASON TO  
HATE ME.

BUT CAN I  
AT LEAST RELY  
ON YOU--OUT  
THERE--TO STILL  
DEDICATE YOURSELF  
AND YOUR KONG TO  
THE CROWN?





NO.

EH--  
EXCUSE  
ME?!



I WAS  
NEVER  
LOYAL  
TO THE  
CROWN.

MY LOYALTY  
IS TO GOOD  
PEOPLE.

EWATA?!  
WAIT!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU--



THERE HAS  
BEEN ENOUGH  
UPHEAVAL.

AND MORE  
THAN ENOUGH  
BLOODSHED.

THINK



FOR THE  
GOOD OF ALL OUR  
PEOPLE, I AM DOING  
MY PART TO SECURE  
THIS NEW HOME FOR  
THE TAGU-ATU.

ONCE  
THINGS ARE  
SAFE...?



...THEN YOU  
AND I CAN  
DISCUSS THE  
PRICE OF  
LOYALTY.





WE PREPARED  
VARYING  
MIXTURES. WE  
PRAY EACH IS  
EFFECTIVE.

BUT STAY  
ALERT FOR  
THE DEMONS'  
COMINGS AND  
GOINGS.

HOW CAN THE  
KONG TRACK  
THESE MONSTERS  
COVERED IN  
STENCH?

WE HAVE BRED  
THEM AS TRACKERS.  
BE GLAD TAGU  
KONG HAVE HAD TO  
HUNT FOR THEIR  
FOOD.



OF COURSE,  
I PREPARED FOR  
US A BLEND OF  
ALL THE  
ELEMENTS.

THE ROYAL  
FAMILY SHOULD  
BE PROTECTED  
ABOVE ALL.



WE CONTINUE  
FORWARD IN BROAD  
FORMATION.  
ANCHORED ON ALL  
CORNERS BY THE  
KONG.

IF WE ARE  
TO SURVIVE THIS  
EXCURSION--WE  
CANNOT RISK SEVERAL  
BODIES FALLING PREY  
TO A SINGLE, SUDDEN  
ATTACK.

BUT THAT  
ALSO OFFERS  
A CHANCE TO  
EXPERIMENT.

KEEPING  
DISTANCE BETWEEN  
EACH OTHER WILL BETTER  
GAUGE WHICH--IF ANY--  
PHEROMONE BLEND CAN  
SERVE AS OUR BEST  
PROTECTION GOING  
FORWARD.



WE ARE  
OUTNUMBERED.  
BUT WE CAN STILL  
OUT-REASON  
THEM.





TSST--  
GALANA--?

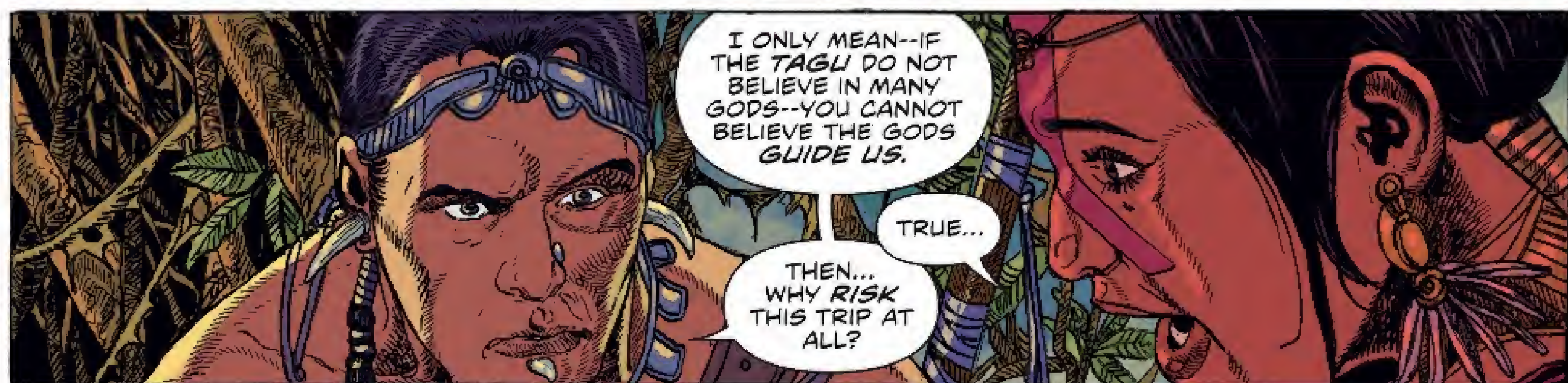
EH? MM...  
BOLTI, WAS IT?  
I THOUGHT WE  
ARE SUPPOSED  
TO KEEP  
SEPARATE?

TRUE. BUT  
I...HAVE TO  
ASK...



WHY  
DID YOU  
COME?

MY BROTHERS  
AND I, WE OBEY  
THE SHAMAN.  
AND OUR FAITH  
REQUIRES...



I ONLY MEAN--IF  
THE TAGU DO NOT  
BELIEVE IN MANY  
GODS--YOU CANNOT  
BELIEVE THE GODS  
GUIDE US.

TRUE...

THEN...  
WHY RISK  
THIS TRIP AT  
ALL?



BECAUSE  
WE HAVE TO  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT WE ARE UP  
AGAINST.

THE OTHER  
TRAINERS AND I  
BARELY ESCAPED  
THE SHORE ALIVE--  
WITH KONG  
FIGHTING BY OUR  
SIDE!

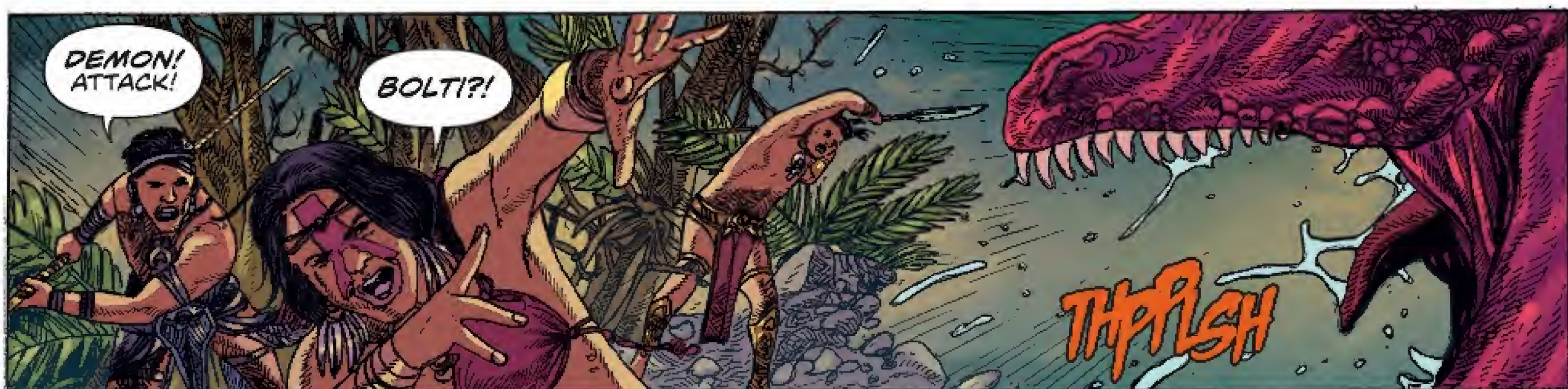
SO PERHAPS  
THE REAL QUESTION  
IS--WHY WOULD YOUR  
GODS WANT THIS?  
OR IS IT MORE LIKELY  
TO BE THE WILL OF  
YOUR--



--SHAMAN?

GURAK









SO, YOUR  
SUSPICIONS  
WERE NOT  
UNFOUNDED...

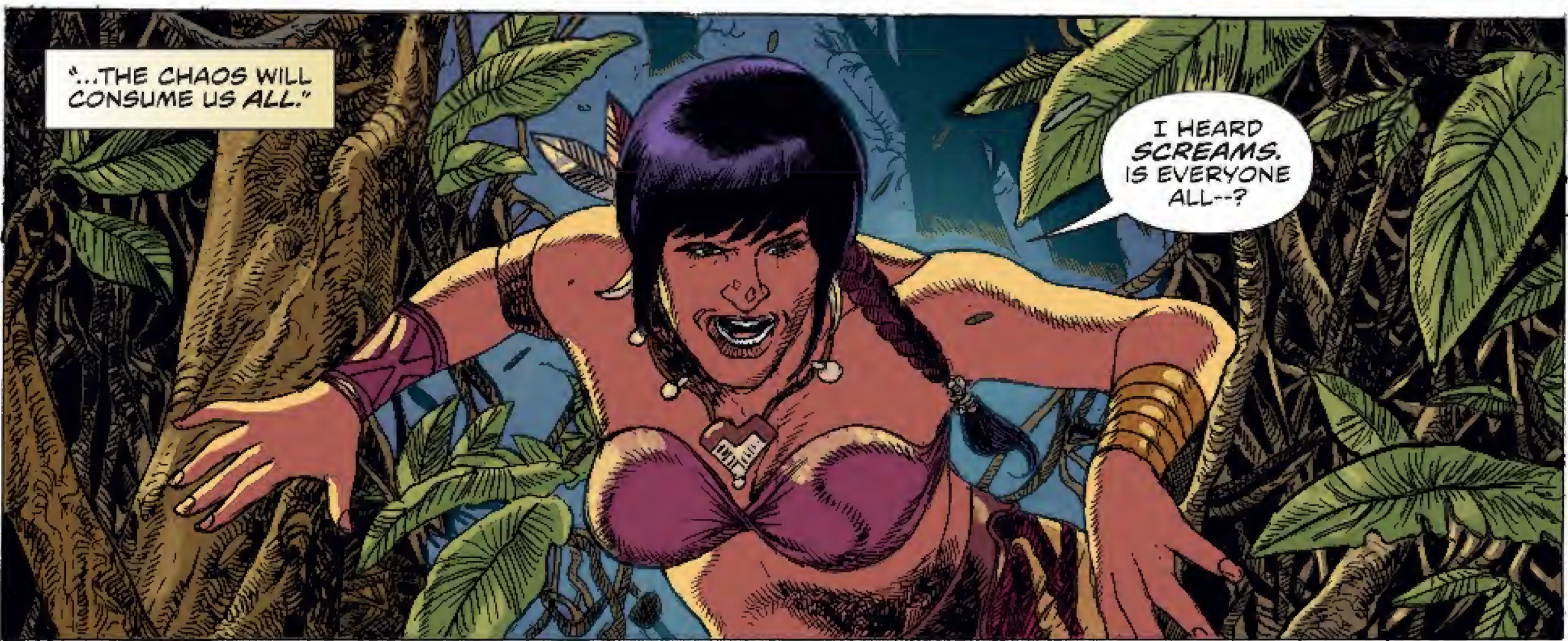
WE  
SOWED FEAR  
AND CHAOS,  
FATHER. NOW WE  
MUST PROVIDE  
STABILITY WHERE  
THE GODS DID  
NOT.

IF WE  
CAN, WE  
BECOME  
THEIR  
GODS.

AND  
IF WE  
FAIL...



KKRA  
AKK



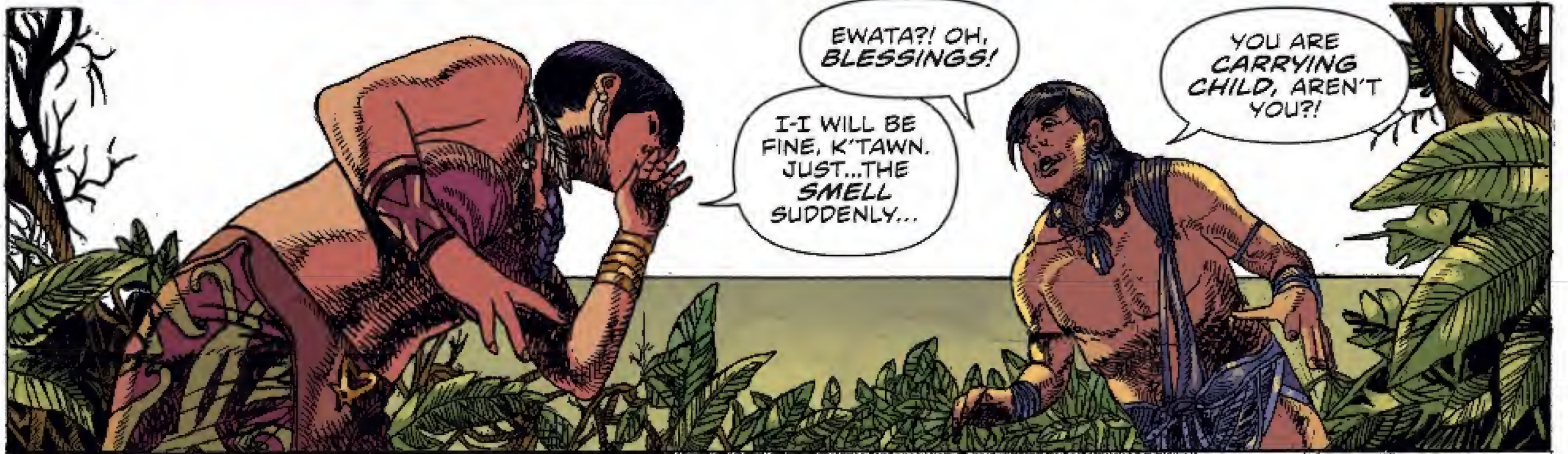
"...THE CHAOS WILL  
CONSUME US ALL."

I HEARD  
SCREAMS.  
IS EVERYONE  
ALL--?





-RRBPLUGGHZ



EWATA?! OH, BLESSINGS!

I-I WILL BE FINE, K'TAWN. JUST...THE SMELL SUDDENLY...

YOU ARE CARRYING CHILD, AREN'T YOU?!



EWATA...? IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT HERE--

NO! I-- I'M FINE.

VALLA?! COME.





SHE  
CARRIES HIS  
CHILD...



TRUE  
ROYAL  
BLOOD.

AND IF  
ENOUGH TAGU  
KNEW OF THEIR  
LOVE...EVEN IF SHE  
DENIES IT, THAT  
CHILD WOULD SNAP  
OUR TENUOUS HOLD  
ON A UNIFIED  
CROWN.



OH  
GODS...  
WHAT WE  
DID...

...IT  
WAS ALL FOR  
NOTHING?

ONLY IF WE  
ALLOW THIS TO  
COME TO PASS.



DO  
WE STILL  
HAVE MEAT  
FOR THE  
KONG?

FATHER?!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?!  
I--

--I DON'T  
WANT TO  
HURT THAT  
CHILD. I  
WON'T!



WORRY  
NOT, MY  
HEART. WE  
DON'T HAVE  
TO...



...NOT  
WHEN THE  
DEMONS  
WILL DO IT  
FOR US.

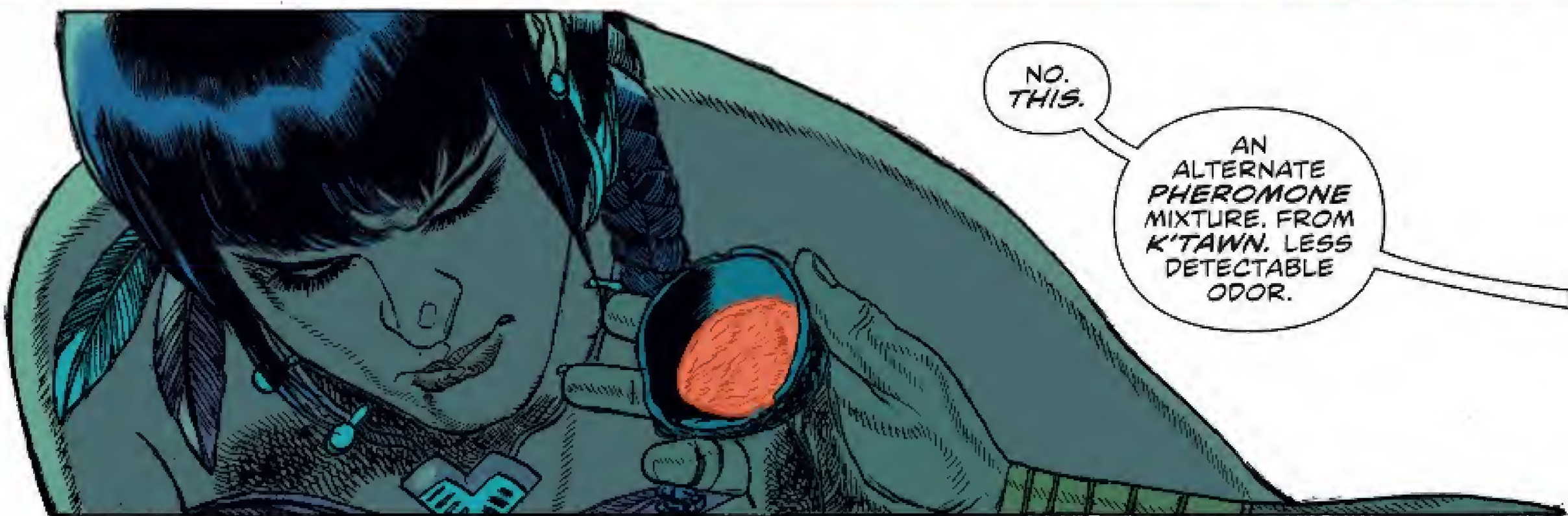




GETTING CLOSE. I'LL REST ONCE WE--

EWATA?

WHAT? ANOTHER ATTACK?!



NO. THIS.

AN ALTERNATE PHEROMONE MIXTURE, FROM K'TAWN. LESS DETECTABLE ODOR.



I... APPRECIATE THE KINDNESS, BUT K'TAWN ASSUMED WRONGLY.

NO MATTER. THE SCENT WAS DISTRACTING.

WE NEED YOUR SENSES SHARP.



IF YOU STILL STRUGGLE, MY HEART, ASK YOURSELF THIS--

--WILL THE DEVILS OF THIS ISLAND WAIT THE YEARS THAT BABY WOULD REQUIRE BEFORE IT GROWS FIT TO LEAD?

...NO. THEY WOULDN'T WAIT A DAY.

AND THUS, NEITHER CAN WE.





"ONE WAY OR ANOTHER--THIS ENDS TONIGHT."

QUIET.  
BE STILL...

WE MAY HAVE CROSSED THE SECOND HALF WITH ONLY ONE ATTACK...

...BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE PHEROMONES MADE US SMELL LIKE THE TOP PREDATOR OF THOSE WILDS.



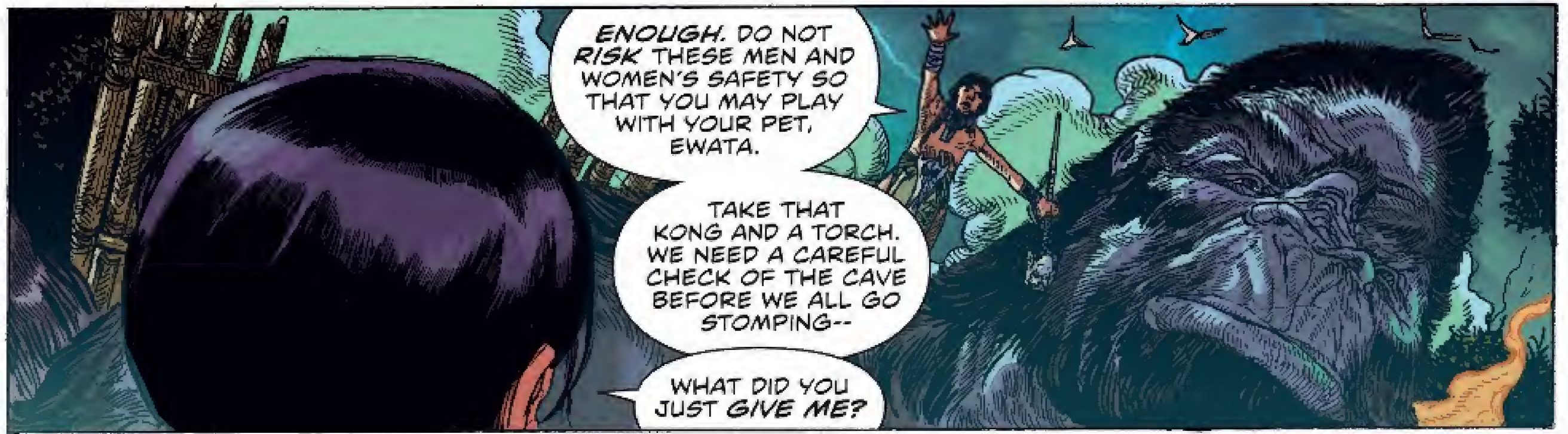
AND IT LOOKS AS IF THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING BIGGER.



SNFFF  
SNFFFF--??

VALLA?  
WHAT IS IT?  
I SMELL LIKE--?





ENOUGH. DO NOT RISK THESE MEN AND WOMEN'S SAFETY SO THAT YOU MAY PLAY WITH YOUR PET, EWATA.

TAKE THAT KONG AND A TORCH. WE NEED A CAREFUL CHECK OF THE CAVE BEFORE WE ALL GO STOMPING--

WHAT DID YOU JUST GIVE ME?



AN ORDER.

DO YOU NEED TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR QUEEN?



I BELIEVE EWATA NEEDS TO HEAR IT WITH RESPECT.

MBETI, PLEASE, DON'T--



WOULD YOU RATHER I PUSH YOUR KONG IN ALONE?

YOUR DECISION.



I'LL GO!

THEN WE COME WITH YOU, TUNO! TAKANI! COME.

WHAT?! YOU TAKE ALL THREE OF YOUR KONG?!

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO COME WITH US.













HAAAAAARRR!

MBET!!!

TO BE  
CONTINUED...





# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

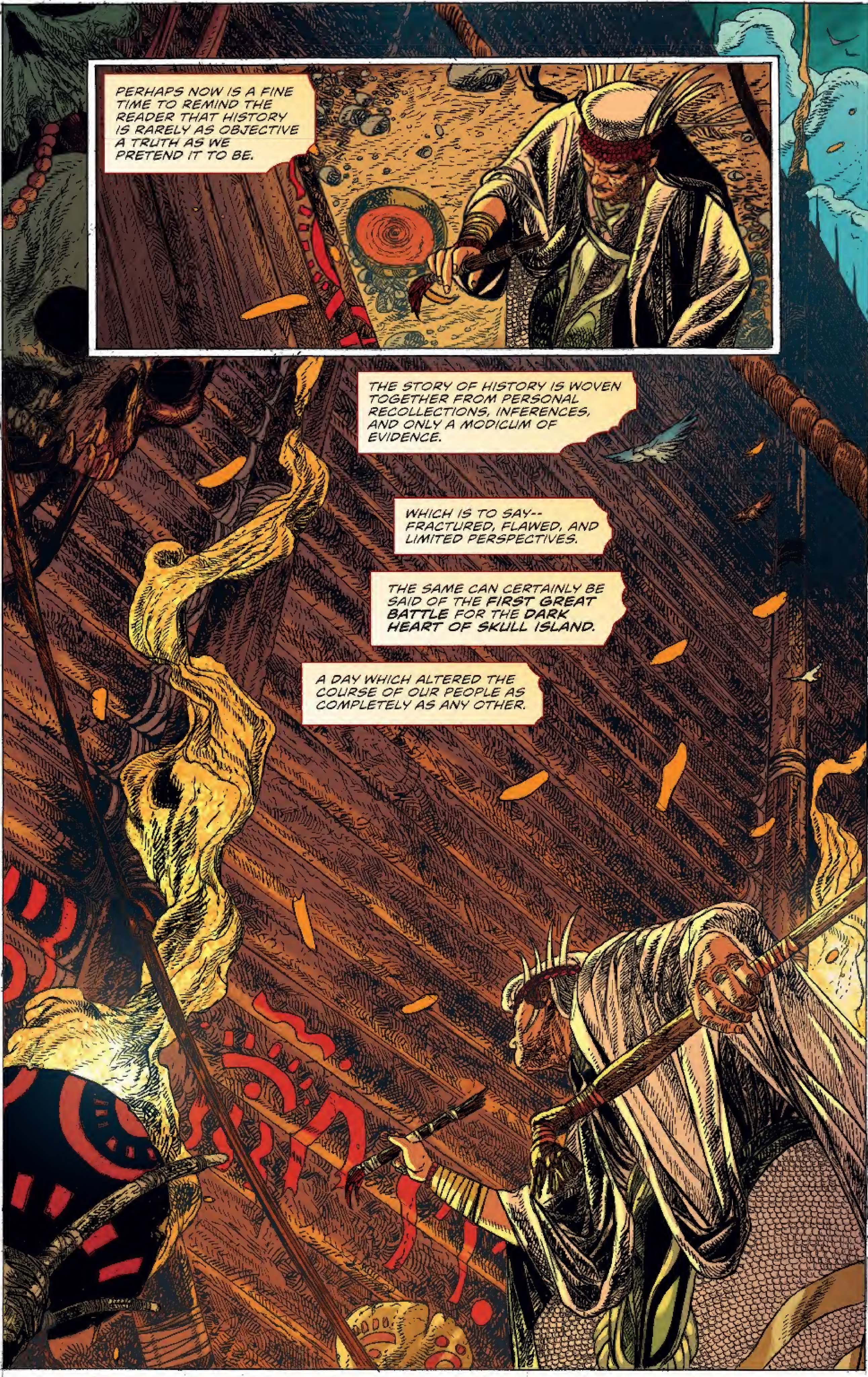
NO. 6

**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
BRAD SIMPSON

Reb/ES





PERHAPS NOW IS A FINE  
TIME TO REMIND THE  
READER THAT HISTORY  
IS RARELY AS OBJECTIVE  
A TRUTH AS WE  
PRETEND IT TO BE.

THE STORY OF HISTORY IS WOVEN  
TOGETHER FROM PERSONAL  
RECOLLECTIONS, INFERENCES,  
AND ONLY A MODICUM OF  
EVIDENCE.

WHICH IS TO SAY--  
FRACTURED, FLAWED, AND  
LIMITED PERSPECTIVES.

THE SAME CAN CERTAINLY BE  
SAID OF THE FIRST GREAT  
BATTLE FOR THE DARK  
HEART OF SKULL ISLAND.

A DAY WHICH ALTERED THE  
COURSE OF OUR PEOPLE AS  
COMPLETELY AS ANY OTHER.



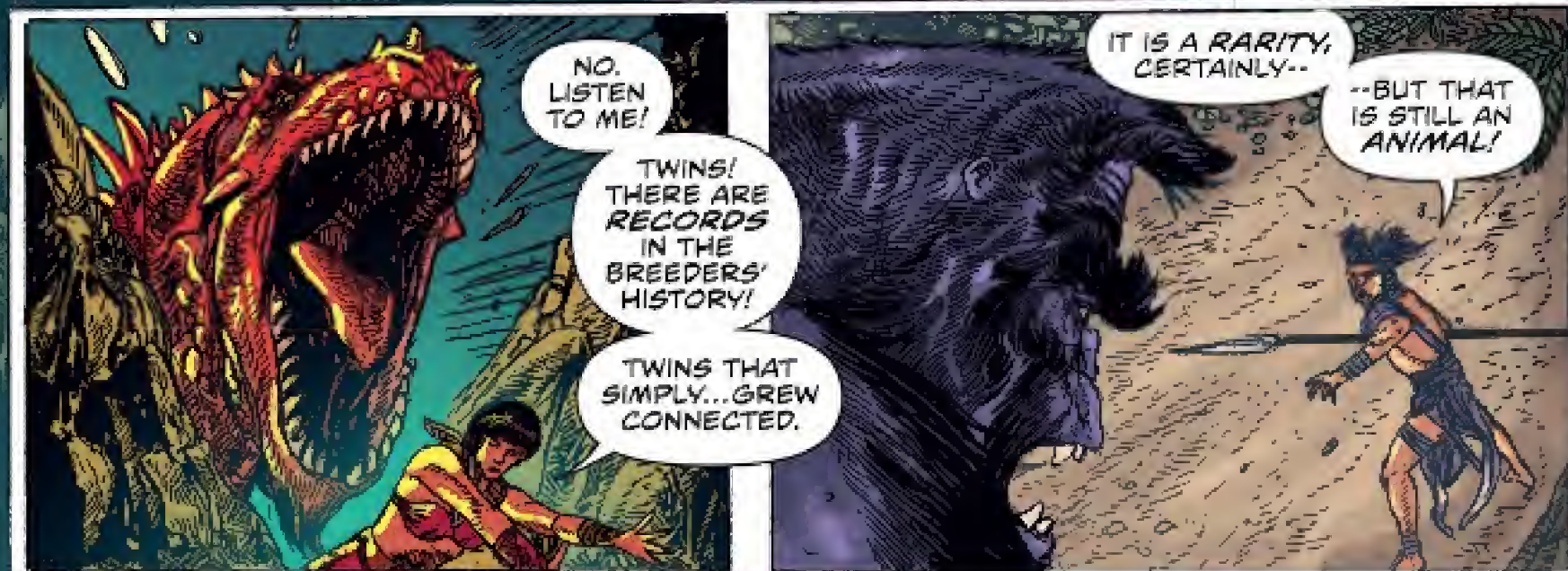
BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE BEAST--THE GOD--WHICH RULED OVER THIS ISLAND WAS A CREATURE UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

THE FACE OF MADNESS AND HORROR.

BEYOND THAT, THOSE WHO SURVIVED COULD MOSTLY ONLY RECALL THE SMELL OF BLOOD THICKENING IN THE AIR.

AND THE SCREAMS OF MAN, WOMAN, DEMON, AND KONG.

OH GODS...THIS IS HELL...



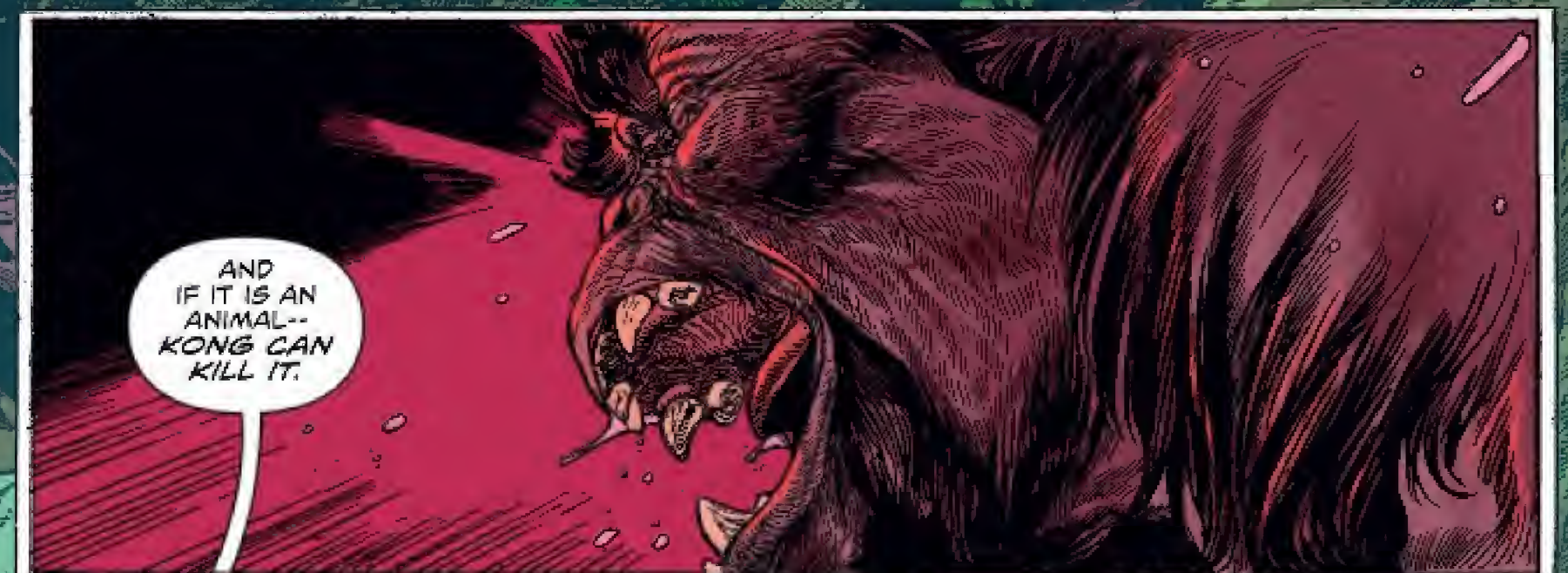
NO. LISTEN TO ME!

TWINS! THERE ARE RECORDS IN THE BREEDERS' HISTORY!

TWINS THAT SIMPLY...GREW CONNECTED.

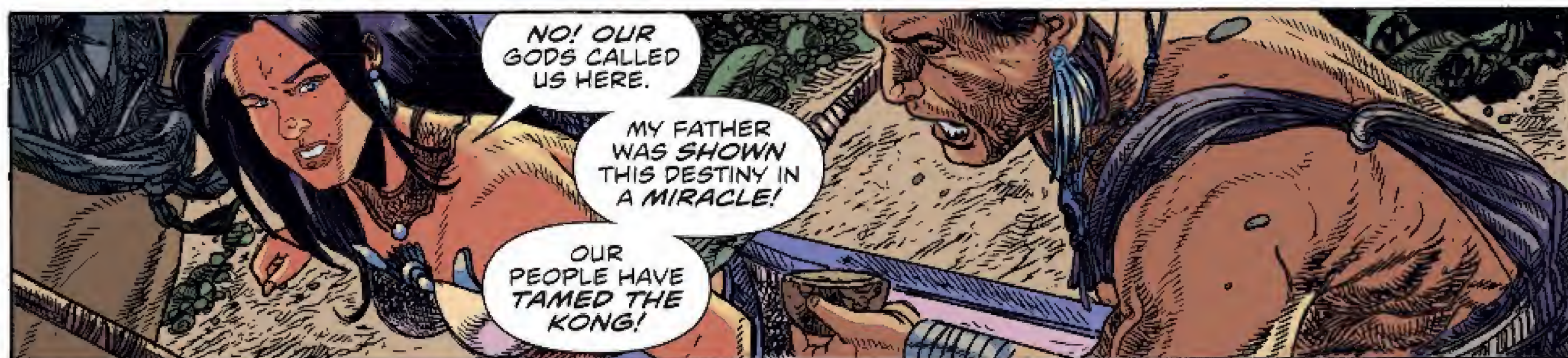
IT IS A RARITY, CERTAINLY..

--BUT THAT IS STILL AN ANIMAL!



AND IF IT IS AN ANIMAL--KONG CAN KILL IT.

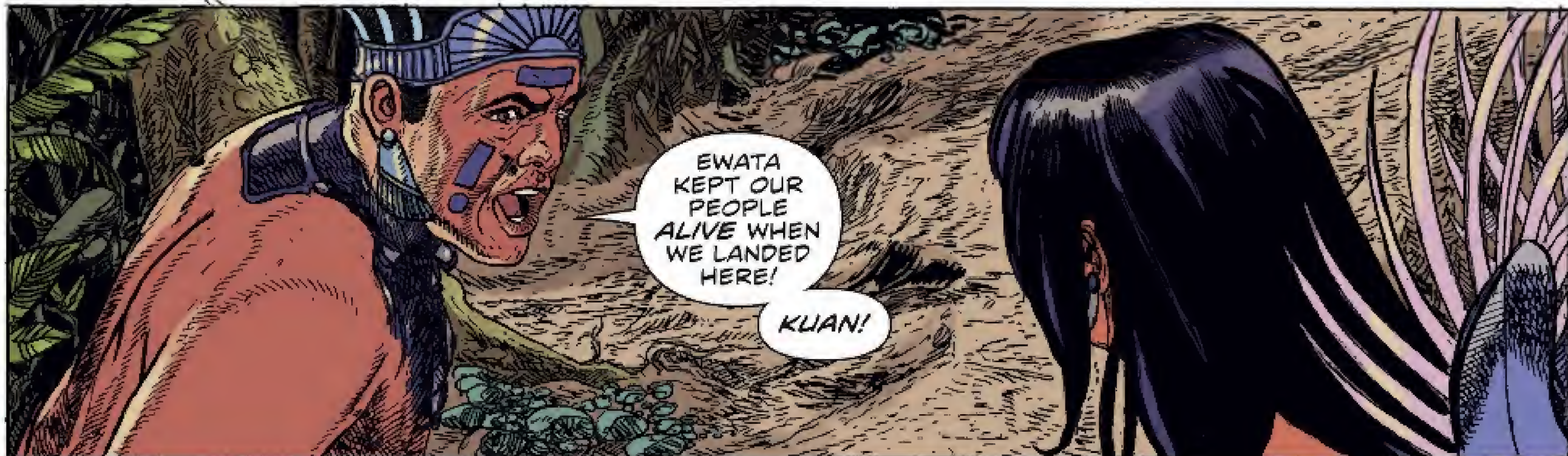












EWATA  
KEPT OUR  
PEOPLE  
ALIVE WHEN  
WE LANDED  
HERE!

KUAN!



THE  
LITTLE  
ONES!  
GO!

GRET! YOU  
ABANDON  
YOUR  
QUEEN?!

ISN'T THAT  
WHAT YOU HAVE  
ALWAYS INSTILLED  
IN US ATU,  
V'DRELL?

HRR



A HEALTHY  
DISREGARD FOR  
ROYALTY.



VALLA?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU--?!





VALLA, YOU...  
YOU HAVE TO  
HELP THE  
OTHERS!

IF THESE  
ARE AFTER  
ME...

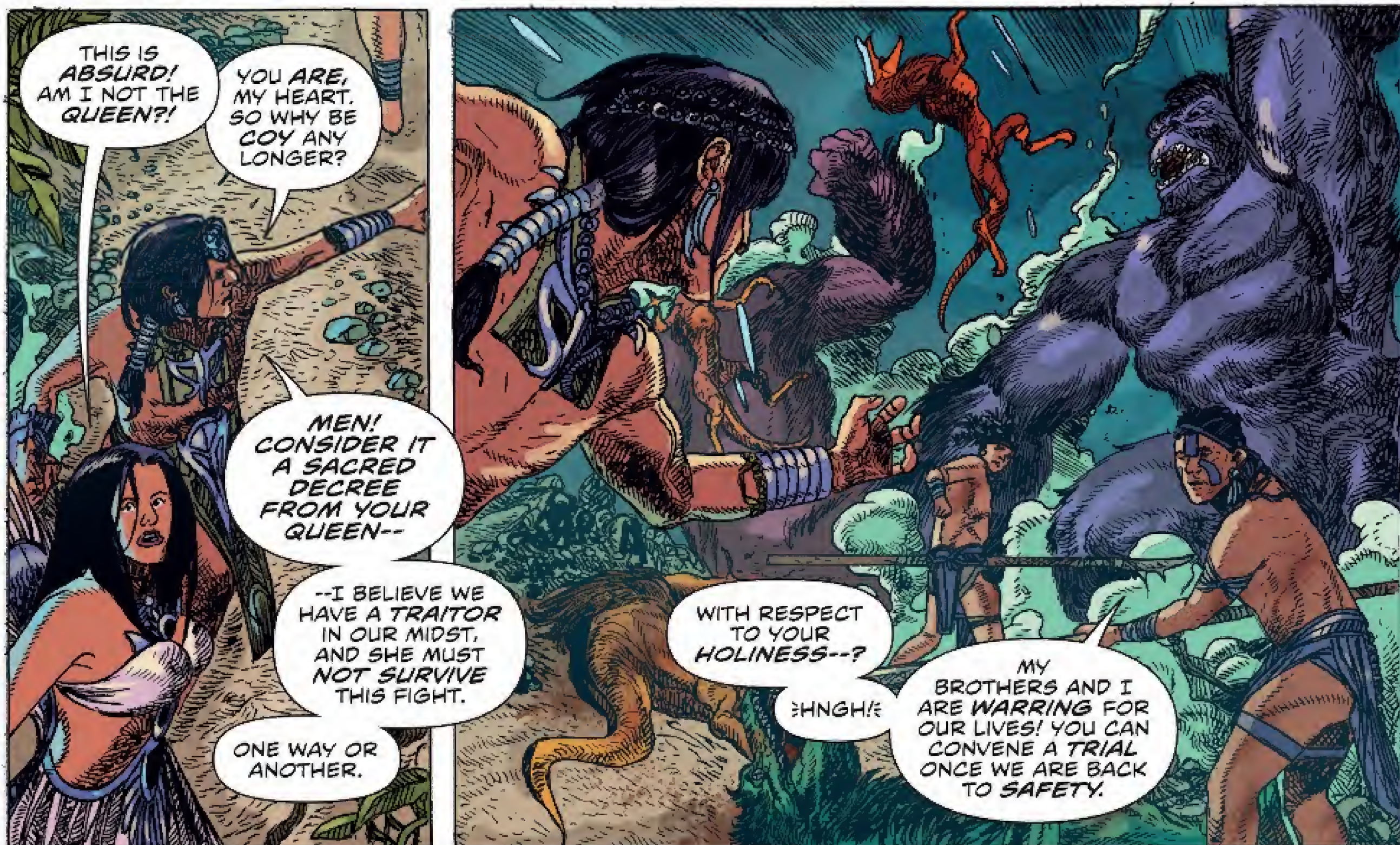
...I COULD  
AT LEAST LEAD  
THEM AWAY.  
BUY YOU ALL  
SOME TIME  
BEFORE  
THEY--



APOLOGIES,  
EWATA! BUT I  
CANNOT LET YOU  
SACRIFICE  
YOURSELF.

YOU  
ARE THE  
ONLY TRAINER  
WHOSE KONG  
GIVE MINE  
A DECENT  
FIGHT!





THIS IS  
ABSURD!  
AM I NOT THE  
QUEEN?!

YOU ARE,  
MY HEART.  
SO WHY BE  
COY ANY  
LONGER?

MEN!  
CONSIDER IT  
A SACRED  
DECREE  
FROM YOUR  
QUEEN--

--I BELIEVE WE  
HAVE A TRAITOR  
IN OUR MIDST,  
AND SHE MUST  
NOT SURVIVE  
THIS FIGHT.

ONE WAY OR  
ANOTHER.

WITH RESPECT  
TO YOUR  
HOLINESS--?

HNH--?

MY  
BROTHERS AND I  
ARE WARRING FOR  
OUR LIVES! YOU CAN  
CONVENE A TRIAL  
ONCE WE ARE BACK  
TO SAFETY.



HNH--?!  
OF ALL THE  
TIMES TO...

I THINK  
I JUST FELT  
IT...MOVE.



FELT  
IT...?

...OH GODS.  
A BABY. A  
TRUE-BLOODED  
ROYAL BABY?

EWATA! GET  
OUT OF HERE!  
USANA AND THE  
SHAMAN...



...THEY  
PLAN FOR  
YOU TO DIE  
HERE!





WHAT?!  
VALLA,  
WAIT--!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
CLIMBING?!



I SEE...



THE GODS  
CALL FOR  
ME.

STAY  
SAFE,  
USANA.

I WILL  
DELIVER  
THEIR FATE  
MYSELF.



GODSPEED.

MY QUEEN!  
PLEASE! I-I  
THOUGHT WE  
COULD HANDLE  
ALL THIS,  
BUT...



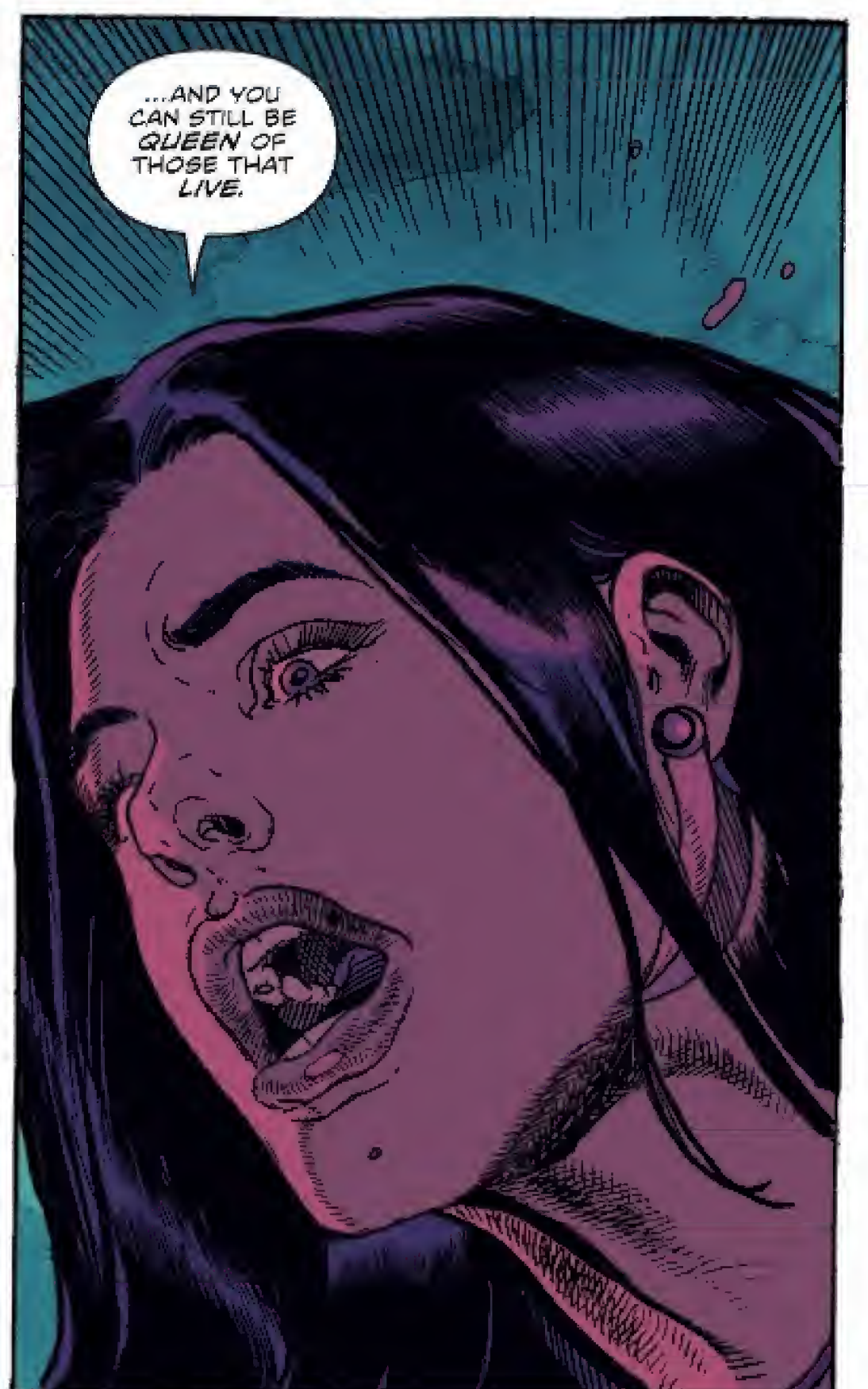
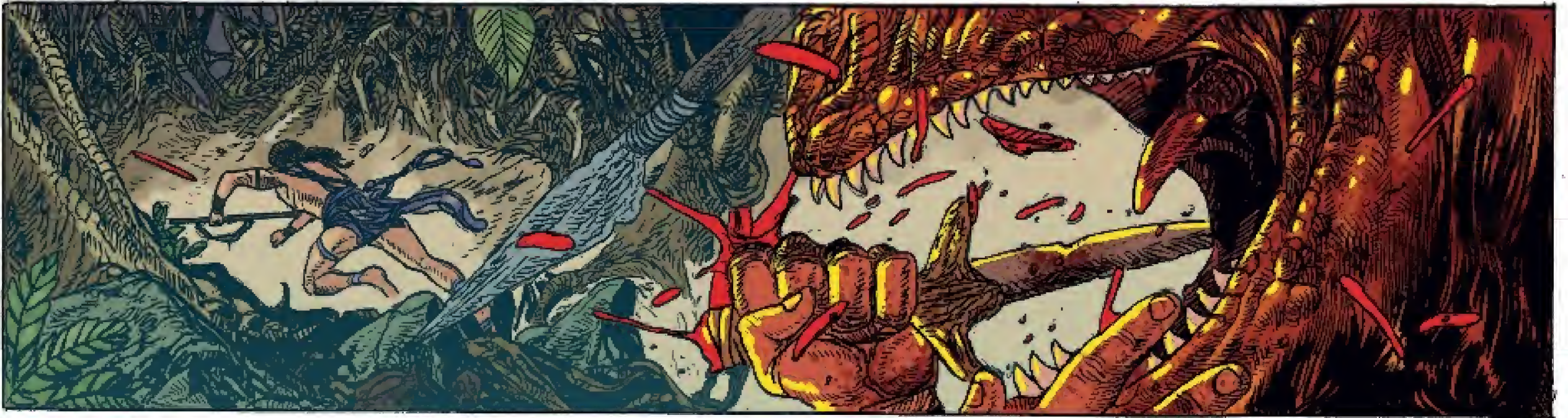
...THEY ARE  
EVERYWHERE!!

IF MY  
MIXTURES  
WORKED ON  
THE OTHER  
CREATURES--  
BUT NOT  
THESE...

...WE  
WON'T  
SURVIVE  
THIS! WE  
HAVE TO  
GO!

YOU ARE  
RIGHT,  
K'TAWN.









HRR--SST

VALLA!  
DO NOT  
LEAVE ME UP  
HERE! I NEED  
TO HELP THE  
OTHERS--!



YOU CAN  
GO AS FAR  
UP THIS  
MOUNTAIN AS  
YOU WISH,  
EWATA!

BUT YOU  
ARE NEVER  
COMING  
DOWN.



HGGRRRAA

YES,  
BEAST--  
FACE  
ME.



HNRAAA--!

PFFF



YOU THINK I  
WOULD LIVE IN  
THE SHADOW  
OF THESE  
MONSTERS--

--AND NOT  
PREPARE  
TO KILL A  
KONG?!

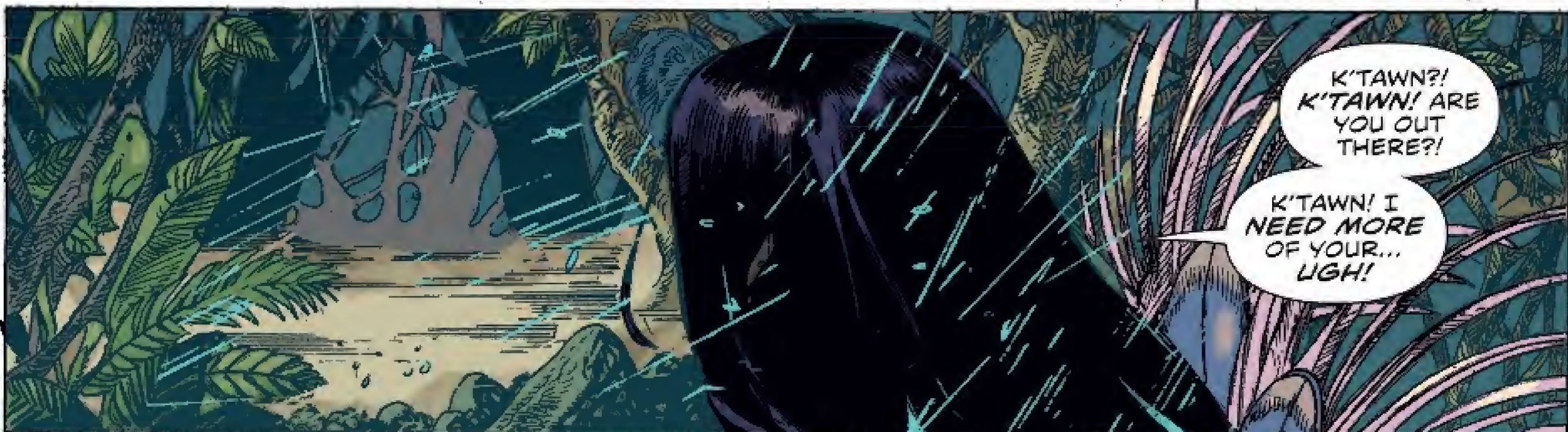
























INCREDIBLE!  
GRET, I WAS  
CERTAIN WE  
STOOD ON THE  
BRINK OF  
DEATH.

BUT YOU  
ACTUALLY  
KILLED A  
CURSE  
GOD?!

EWATA  
DID IT.



I...  
I MERELY  
POISONED  
ONE OF THE  
HEADS.

TRULY, WE  
WOULD ALL BE  
DEAD IF NOT FOR  
ALL OF YOUR  
SKILLS AND  
SACRIFICES.

YES...WE  
SHOULD BURY  
AND HONOR  
OUR FALLEN.

WHERE...?  
WHERE IS THE  
SHAMAN?



I AM SORRY  
TO SAY...HE IS  
UP THERE.

AND  
HE IS DEAD.



WHAT?!  
HOW?!

NO! THE  
GODS  
CALLED US  
HERE!



YOU  
MURDERED  
HIM?!

TAKE  
HER!

WAIT--

HNN...?



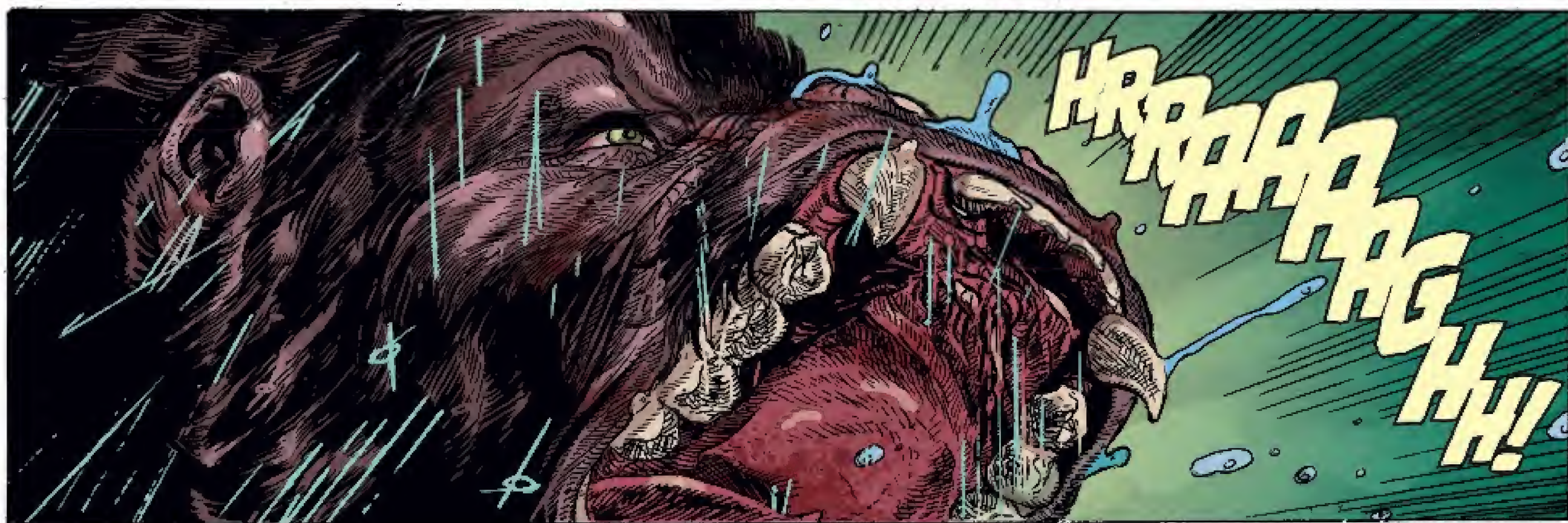


CALM YOURSELF, BANNI.

NO! IF THE SHAMAN WAS STRUCK DOWN--IT WAS NOT BY DIVINE HANDS!

THE SHAMAN WARNED OF A FEMALE TRAITOR!

YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE LATE PRINCE WERE NO SECRET. WAS THIS YOUR JILTED REVENGE AGAINST HIS BRIDE?!



HRRAAAGGHH!



YOUR KONG?! YOU HAD YOUR BEAST KILL OUR LINK TO THE GODS?!

NO--!

YES! I SAW IT. VALLA ONLY ACTED TO PROTECT HER.



V'DRELL WENT TO KILL EWATA--

HE WAS AFTER THE BABY SHE CARRIES.



OUR TRIBES WERE FINALLY JOINING TOGETHER.

QUEEN USANA--EVEN THE ATU PEOPLE WILL DEMAND JUSTICE.

I KNOW...



ORDER IS WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE ANIMALS.

AT LEAST, THAT IS THE LIE WE TELL OURSELVES.



SO NATURALLY, AFTER LOSING  
NEARLY EVERYTHING, OUR  
PEOPLE UNITED BEYOND  
ANYTHING IN OUR HISTORY.

THERE WAS EVEN  
A GROUNDSWELL TO  
BEGIN IDENTIFYING AS  
THE TAGU-ATU. ONE  
PEOPLE.

AND AS IF PUSHING AGAINST THE CHAOS  
OF SKULL ISLAND, OUR WOMEN AND MEN  
CONSTRUCTED A VILLAGE, A GREAT  
WALL, AND A NEW SOCIETY--

--ALL IN THE TIME  
SINGLE ENDEAVORS  
HAD UNFOLDED IN  
SIMPLER YEARS.

AFTER USANA FAILED  
TO RETURN FOR SEVEN  
NIGHTS, HER GUARDS  
ADMITTED SHE HAD FLED  
THE SACRED BATTLE.

IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE  
PEOPLE TURNED TO EWATA  
FOR GUIDANCE.

SHE WOULD HALF-SERIOUSLY ASK  
THESE PEOPLE TO WAIT UNTIL HER  
CHILD MIGHT BE OLD ENOUGH TO  
RIGHTFULLY DECIDE.

BUT QUEEN EWATA  
EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED  
THE IDEA--

--THAT THINGS  
ARE NO LONGER  
AS THEY WERE.

SHOULD  
I FEAR  
WHAT YOU  
WRITE THERE,  
SANI?

NO. BUT NOT  
TO WASH THE  
BLOOD OFF  
YOUR HANDS,  
EWATA.

HISTORY WILL  
TEACH THE LIE  
BECAUSE THE TRUTH  
SURROUNDING V'DRELL'S  
DEATH WOULD DESTROY  
THE FAITH OF HALF OUR  
PEOPLE. AND THAT  
WOULD UPEND  
EVERYTHING.

THIS ISLAND  
WANTS TO  
CHANGE US  
ALL.

YOUR SACRED  
OATH REQUIRING  
YOU TO OUT THE  
SECRET I CRIED  
TO YOU AS MY  
COUSIN?



OUR DUTY NOW  
IS TO FIGHT TO  
HANG ONTO THE  
BEST PARTS OF  
OURSELVES.

I USED  
THE LAST OF  
THE OLD ISLAND  
PLANTS IN MAKING  
THIS INCENSE.  
I HOPE IT  
WORKS.

THANK  
YOU, K'TAWN.  
AND I BELIEVE  
IT DID.

IT TOOK EVERY SHRED  
OF GOODWILL EWATA  
HAD EARNED TO SPARE  
VALLA'S LIFE.

GOOD TO  
SEE YOU,  
VALLA.

AND I  
WANTED TO  
INTRODUCE YOU  
TO THE GIRL  
YOU SAVED--

--THIS IS  
K'VANNI, MY  
DAUGHTER.

RESCUING THE FIRST SHIP.  
LEADING THE BATTLE TO  
SECURE OUR SHORES.  
RISKING HER LIFE TO REALIZE  
THE WILL OF ATU GODS...

...ANY POLITICAL CAPITAL GAINED  
WAS SPENT IN ALLOWING THE KONG  
WHO MURDERED THE SHAMAN  
TO LIVE, EXILED, AMONG THE  
OTHER MONSTERS.

PERHAPS QUEEN  
EWATA WILL COME  
TO REGRET THIS  
MERCY--





--ON A DARK DAY WHEN  
THE PEOPLE SHE NEEDS NO  
LONGER FEEL THEY OWE  
HER A DEBT.



AND IN THIS LAND  
WE NOW INHABIT,  
DARK DAYS ARE  
NEVER FAR OFF.

I DO NOT  
CLAIM TO HAVE  
THE POWER OR  
THE BLESSINGS  
OF OUR BELOVED,  
DEPARTED  
SHAMAN.



BUT IN A TIME  
OF CHAOS, HE  
WAS OUR  
SALVATION!

NOW THAT THERE  
IS RELATIVE PEACE?  
I UNDERSTAND IF  
PEOPLE MAY NOT  
SEEK DOMINANT  
LEADERSHIP.

BUT THERE  
WILL BE  
ANOTHER  
CHAOS...



THIS PLACE SURROUNDS US  
WITH MONSTERS. BUT THE  
TRUE DANGER IS THAT IF  
WE ARE NOT VIGILANT...

...IT WILL MAKE  
MONSTERS OF US.

TO BE CONTINUED...






# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

NO. 7  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
JEREMY LAWSON






JUST AS  
THE GODS HAVE  
BLESSED US WITH  
THIS MIRACULOUS  
CONTINUATION OF  
THE ROYAL  
BLOOD--

--SO DO WE  
HONOR THE GODS,  
IN ANOINTING THE  
FUTURE QUEEN  
OF THE TAGU-ATU  
PEOPLE IN THEIR  
NAMES!

**BLESSINGS BE!  
BLESSINGS BE!  
BLESSINGS BE!**

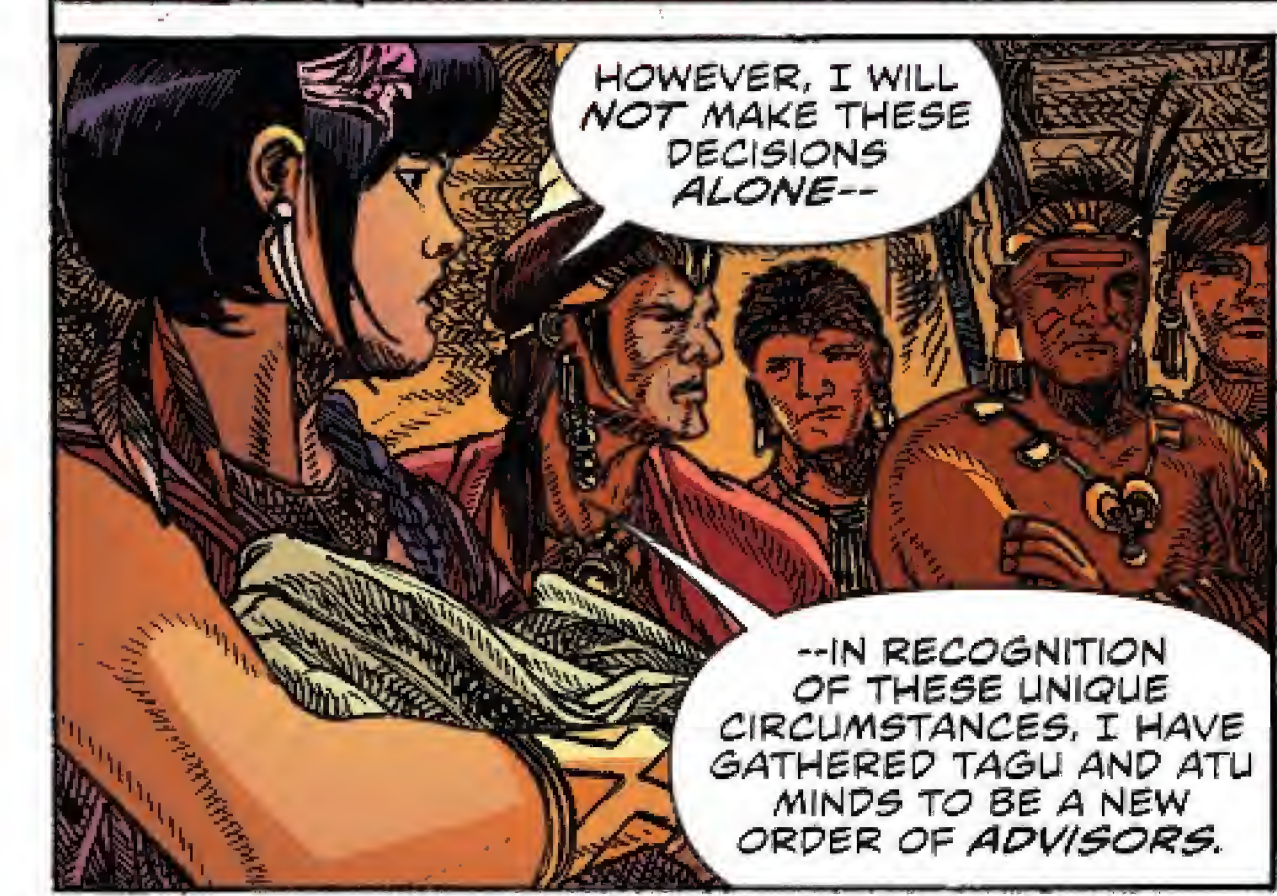


THANK YOU ALL.  
AS THE...MOTHER  
OF THE RIGHTFUL  
QUEEN, MANY OF  
YOU HAVE COME  
TO ME FOR  
GUIDANCE.

BUT I AM NO  
MONARCH.


AFTER SEEKING  
THE GUIDANCE OF  
YOUR--OUR--SHAMAN,  
AND CONSULTING ANY  
PRECEDENCE  
KNOWN TO OUR  
STORYTELLER--

--I RECOGNIZE  
MY DUTY TO SERVE  
IN MY DAUGHTER'S  
PLACE UNTIL SHE IS  
OLD ENOUGH  
TO RULE.



HOWEVER, I WILL  
NOT MAKE THESE  
DECISIONS  
ALONE--

--IN RECOGNITION  
OF THESE UNIQUE  
CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAVE  
GATHERED TAGU AND ATU  
MINDS TO BE A NEW  
ORDER OF ADVISORS.



I SWORE A  
SACRED OATH.

AS A STORYTELLER, I AM  
TO REMAIN AN OBJECTIVE  
OBSERVER.

THAT PROMISE  
HAS NEVER  
BEFORE FELT AS  
IMPOSSIBLE--



--OR AS  
NECESSARY.

OUR LIVES ARE NO  
LONGER WHAT THEY  
WERE. WE WILL ONLY  
SURVIVE BY FORGING  
A NEW PATH, A NEW  
LIFE--TOGETHER.

**BLESSINGS BE!  
BLESSINGS BE!**

IT IS A STARTLING THING TO  
FIND OURSELVES SEVERED  
SO COMPLETELY FROM THE  
WORLD WE KNEW.

BUT AS THE CHAOS  
QUIETS AND THE BLOOD  
SHED BEGINS TO DRY...

...CLEARER EYES  
SEARCH FOR NEW  
PATHS FORWARD.

BLESSINGS  
BE.

THERE IS NO WAY TO  
KNOW WHICH DIRECTION  
WILL REDEEM US.

BUT IF WE DIVERGE FROM EACH  
OTHER, IT ONLY GUARANTEES  
WE WILL BE MORE VULNERABLE  
TO DARKNESS AHEAD.





















A KONG--?!

THE UNTAMED!!!

HNNH-  
HAAA



HNN?

I DO NOT  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU EXPECT,  
ANIMAL--

--BUT YOU  
SHOULD SET ME  
DOWN...EASY...  
AND GO.



KEEP THAT  
MURDERER  
BACK! AIM FOR  
ITS EYES!

NO!  
LET ME  
IN!









IT ALMOST  
SEEMS...  
LONELY.

THE KONG ARE  
MONSTERS.  
MADE ONLY MORE  
DANGEROUS BY  
THEIR ABILITY--



--TO FOOL OUR  
PEOPLE INTO  
FORGETTING  
THAT FACT.

AH...MY  
APOLOGIES,  
UTAL. IS THIS  
THE KONG  
WHO...?

SLAUGHTERED  
MY SISTER?

WHAT DIFFERENCE  
DOES IT MAKE? HALF OF  
THEM TURNED ON US AS OUR  
ISLAND ERUPTED. YET OUR  
USURPER QUEEN KEEPS  
KONG AS HER PETS.

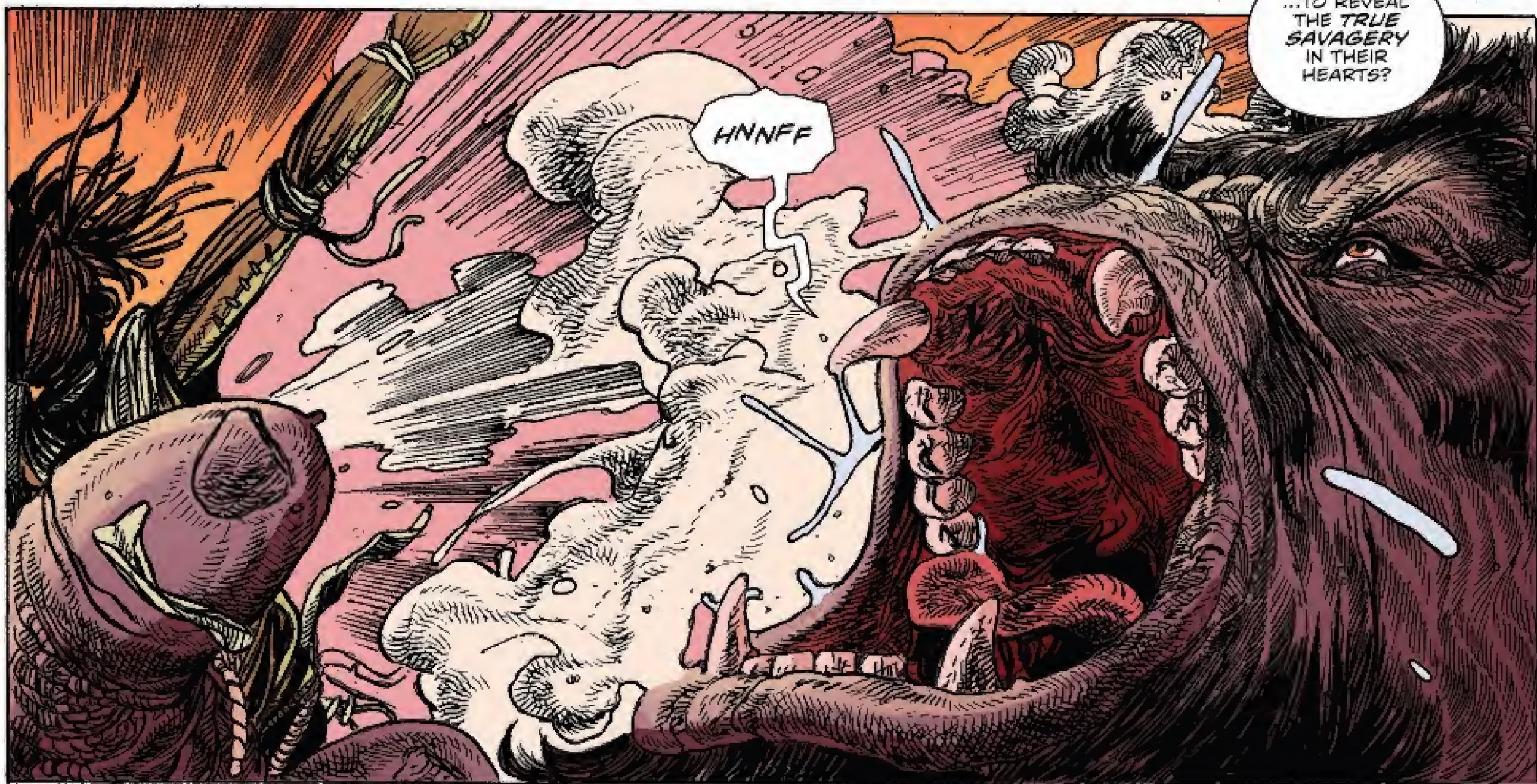


WE WILL  
NOT GIVE THE  
REST OF THEM  
ANOTHER  
OPPORTUNITY.



VALLA--?









HNNT!  
HFNT!

HNGRRRAAAAA

N'AA!

B'SAN!

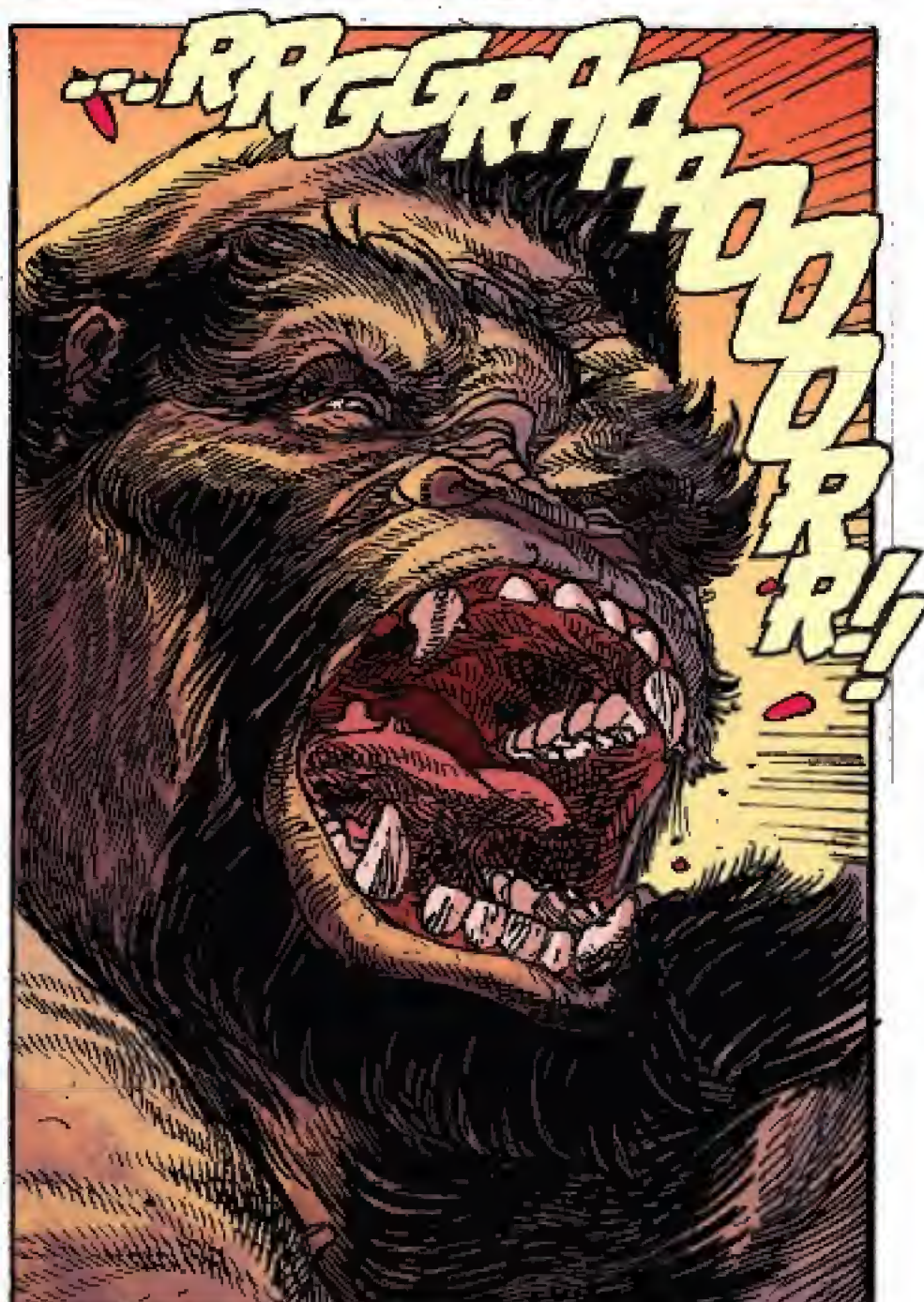
GET UP!  
RUN! I  
WILL--

THANK

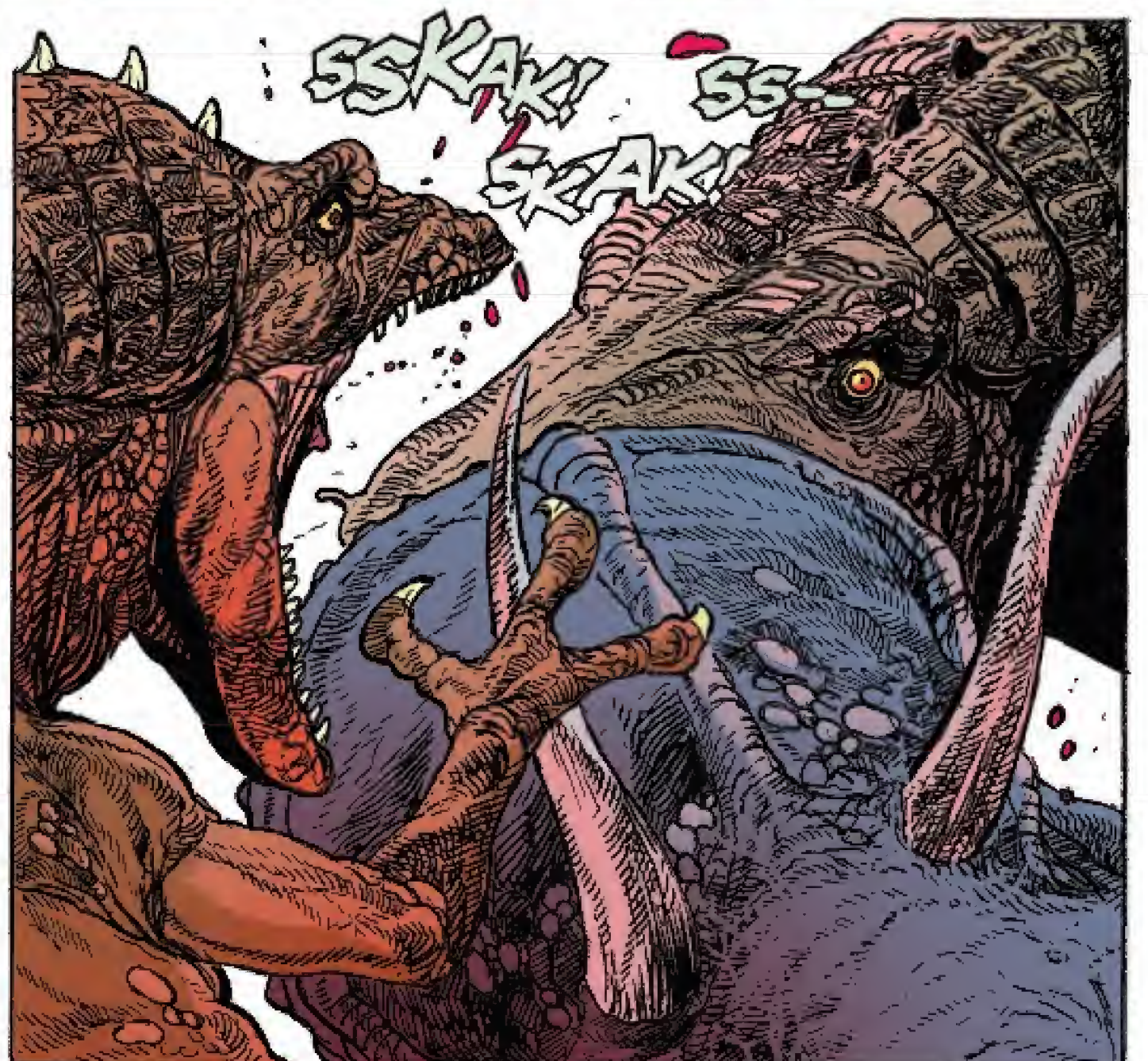
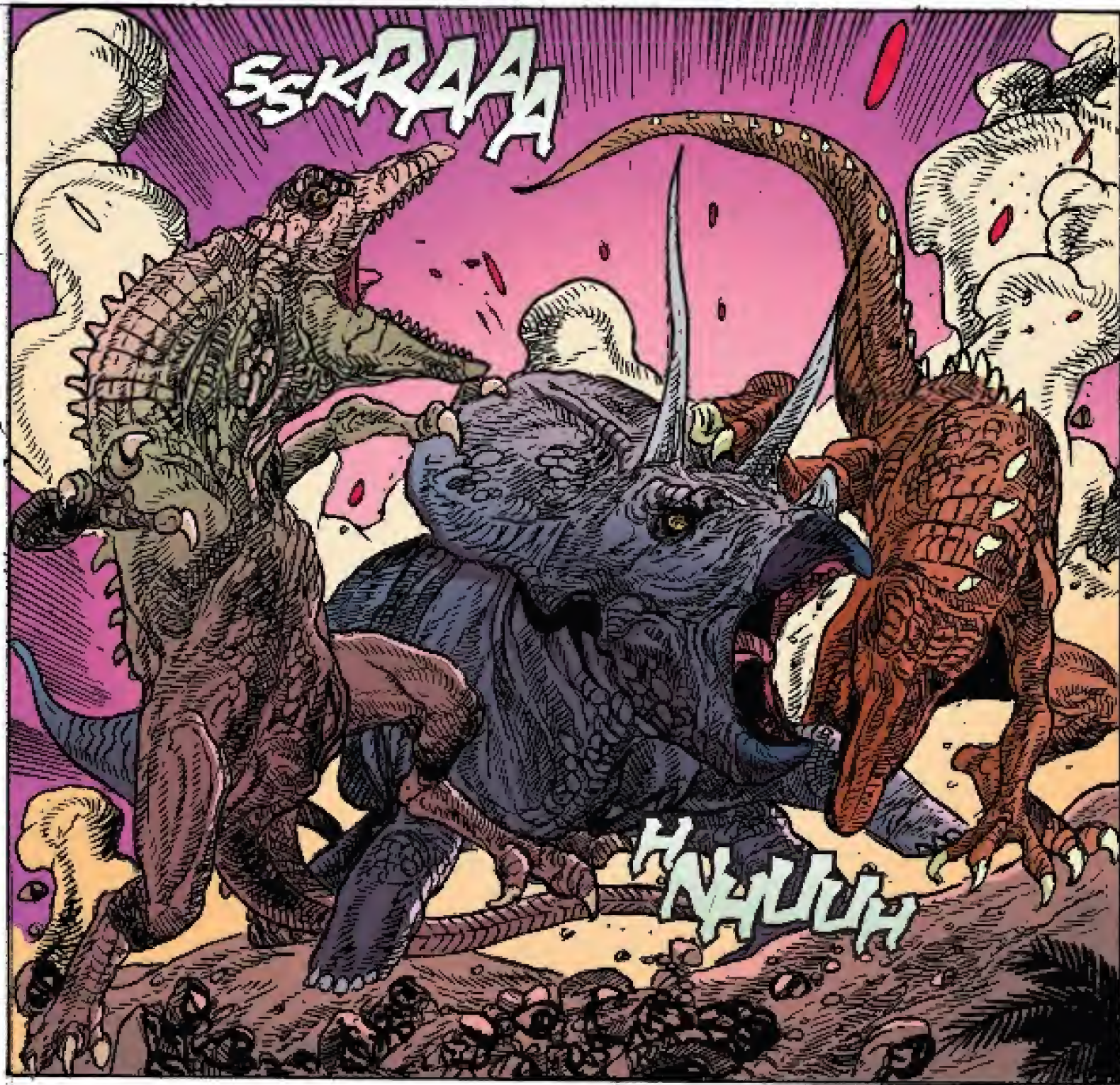




GGR'NAAAAAGH!



































TO BE CONTINUED...



# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

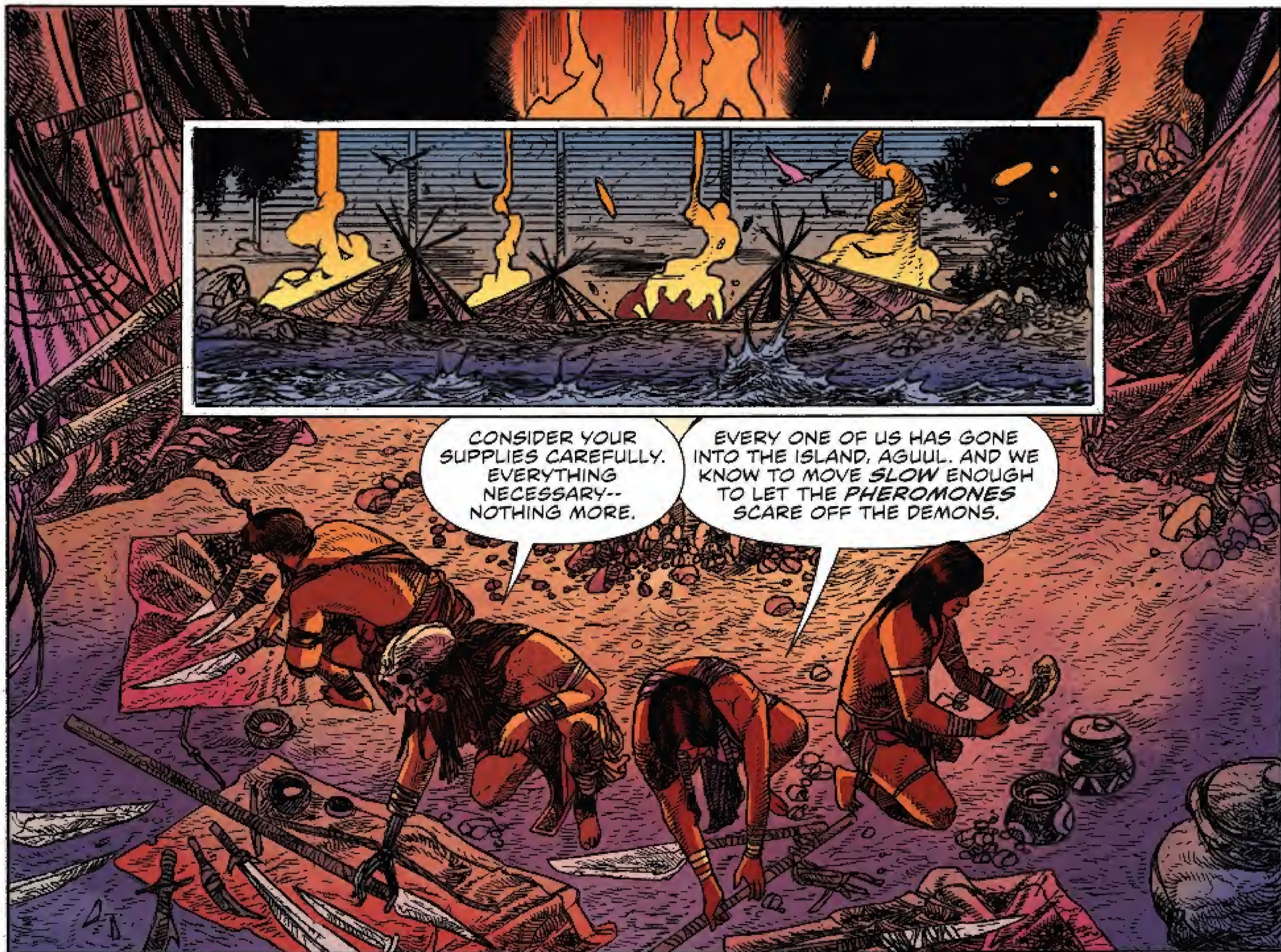
JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
JEREMY LAWSON

NO. 8

**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

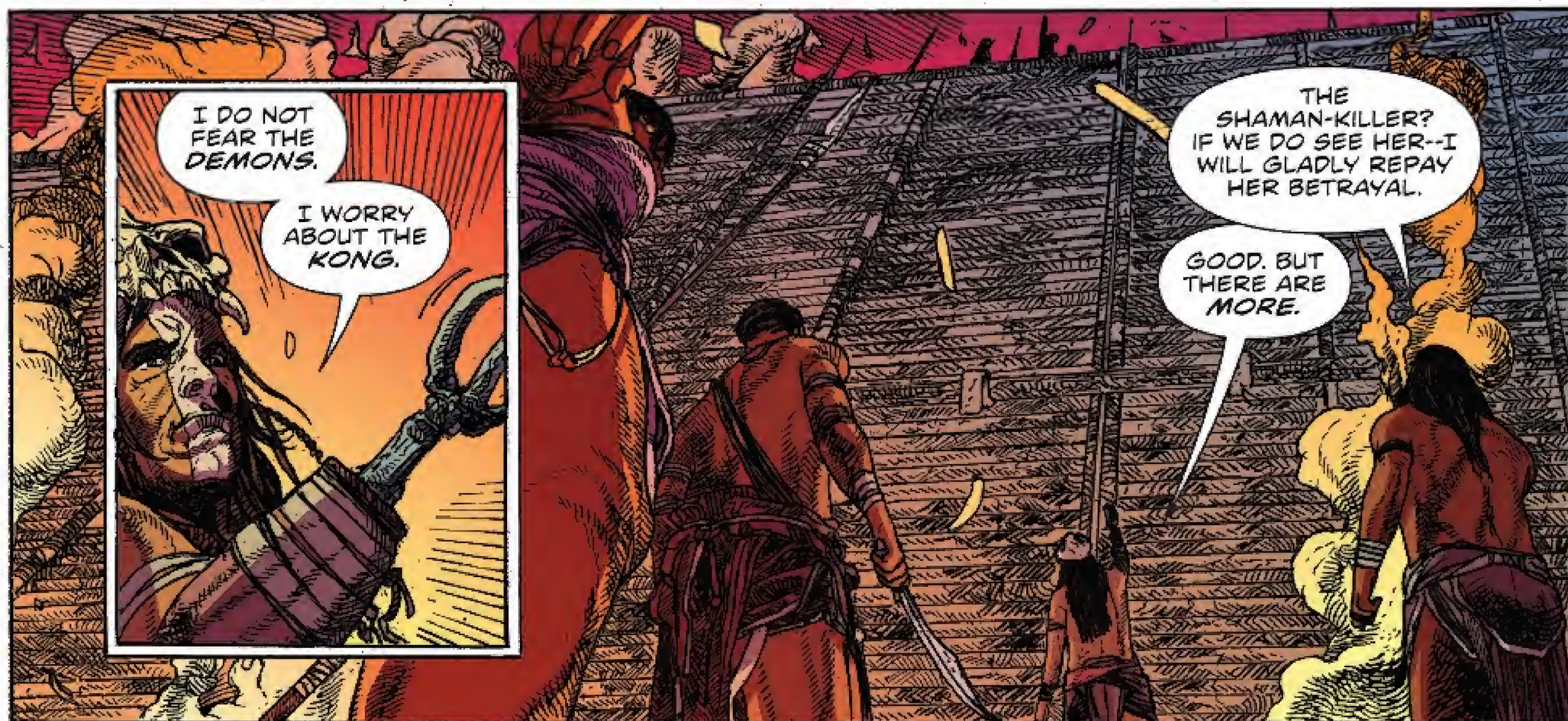






CONSIDER YOUR  
SUPPLIES CAREFULLY.  
EVERYTHING  
NECESSARY--  
NOTHING MORE.

EVERY ONE OF US HAS GONE  
INTO THE ISLAND, AGUUL. AND WE  
KNOW TO MOVE *SLOW* ENOUGH  
TO LET THE *PHEROMONES*  
SCARE OFF THE DEMONS.



I DO NOT  
FEAR THE  
DEMONS.

I WORRY  
ABOUT THE  
KONG.

THE  
SHAMAN-KILLER?  
IF WE DO SEE HER--I  
WILL GLADLY REPAY  
HER BETRAYAL.

GOOD. BUT  
THERE ARE  
*MORE*.



MORE  
THAN THE  
EXILE?

IT  
SHOULD BE NO  
SURPRISE--



"--THIS IS AN ISLE OF MONSTERS AND DARKNESS.

"THIS IS THE KONG'S DOMAIN.

"IN EARLY DAYS, THE GREAT SHAMAN ENLISTED SOME OF US TO TAKE KONG AND GATHER RESOURCES.

"BUT WE COULD FEEL THE CHANGE ONCE WE SET FOOT INSIDE...

"...ECHOING SCREAMS.

"THE FEEL OF A THOUSAND EYES ON YOU.

"THE STENCH OF BLOOD FILLING YOUR NOSTRILS.

"THE VIOLENCE-- CHAOS--OF THIS PLACE TOOK SEVERAL OF OUR KONG.

"ONES WHO RAN INTO RUSTLING TREES AND NEVER RETURNED.

"SOME FELL, I ASSUME, TO THE DEMONS--

"--BUT OTHERS SURRENDERED TO BECOMING DEMONS, THEMSELVES."





"SOME DAYS,  
WE WOULD SPOT  
THEM DURING  
EXPEDITIONS.

"BUT IN THE LAST  
YEAR, ONLY ONE  
HAS BEEN SEEN.



"EITHER THE OTHERS  
HAVE BECOME BETTER  
AT HIDING--OR SHE IS  
THE ONE VICIOUS  
ENOUGH TO SURVIVE.



"OR MAYBE...THE  
THING THAT REMAINS  
IS A GHOST.

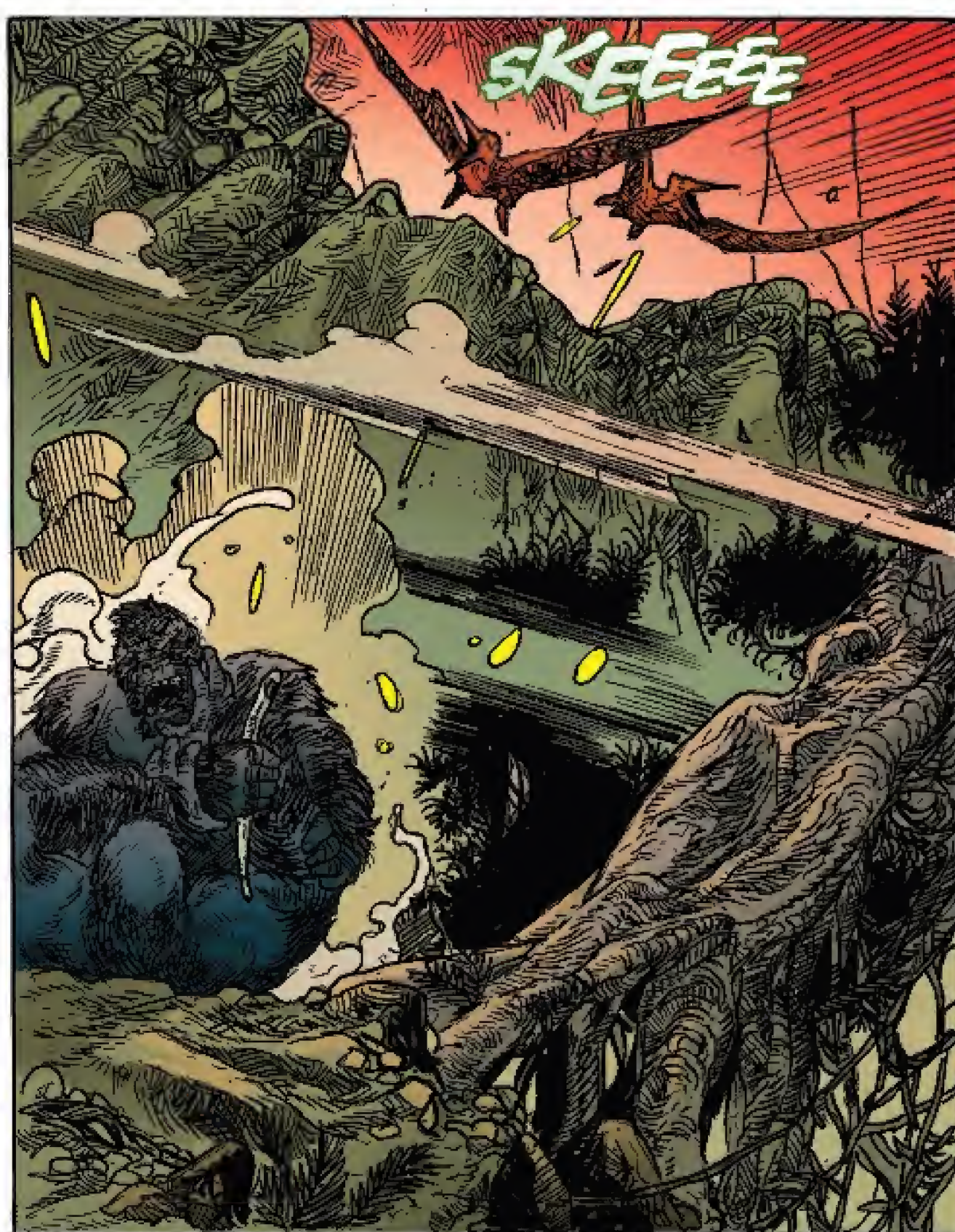
HNNN



"AN UNHOLY  
SHROUD OF A  
BEAST THAT  
DIED HERE--

"--BUT WALKS,  
ETERNALLY  
HUNGRY FOR  
MORE PAIN AND  
VIOLENCE.













HOW DOES IT LOOK, EESA? WILL THIS GROUND SERVE OUR PURPOSE?



PERHAPS. IT WILL BE TIGHT. BUT, AGUUL...

...WHY DO YOU OPPOSE THE IDEA OF OUR KONG CLEARING MORE--



THE KONG ARE DEMONS.

THEY SHOWED THEIR TRUE EVIL AS OUR HOME SANK.

THEN AGAIN AS ONE SLAUGHTERED OUR GREAT SHAMAN--COST ME MY BODY!



THIS PLACE YOU DESIGN WILL BE OUR LIBERATION FROM THOSE BEASTS--

--AND IT CANNOT COME SOON ENOUGH.



AGUUL? I RECOMMEND WE TURN BACK SOON.

ONCE THIS POT BURNS, I HAVE ONLY ENOUGH INCENSE FOR THE TREK BACK. AND I WOULD RATHER NOT RISK--





DEMONS!!  
RUN FOR THE  
TRE--

AAH-AAGGH!

FWWOF

D'AAHH-H-HHELP--!!

GODS...

WE--  
WE HAVE  
TO--

HELP-P-MEEE

NO!  
EESA.

NOT  
WITH THOSE  
DEMONS  
OUT THERE!

CRAWL!

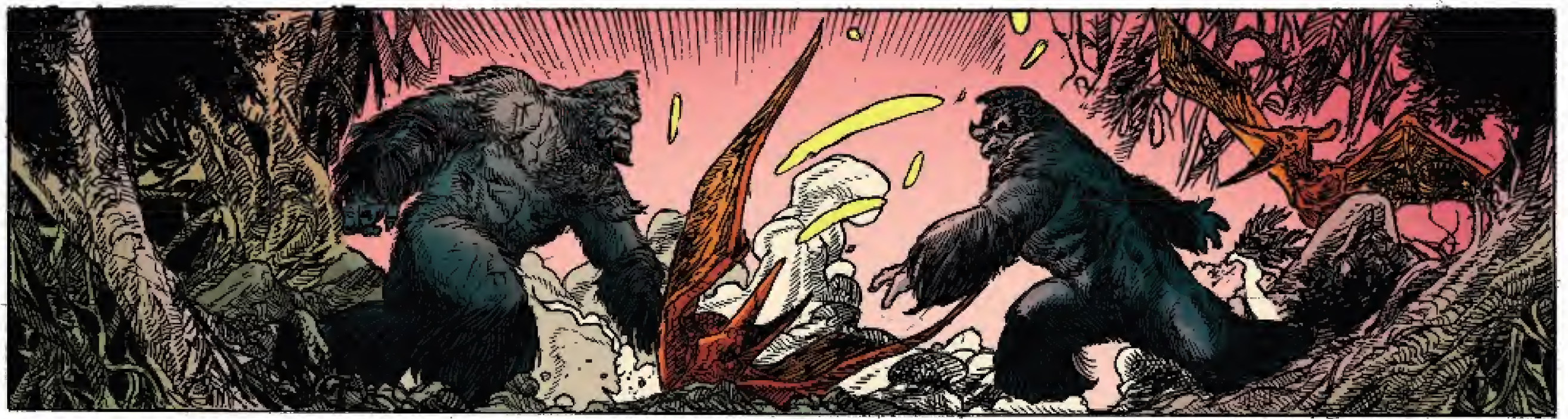
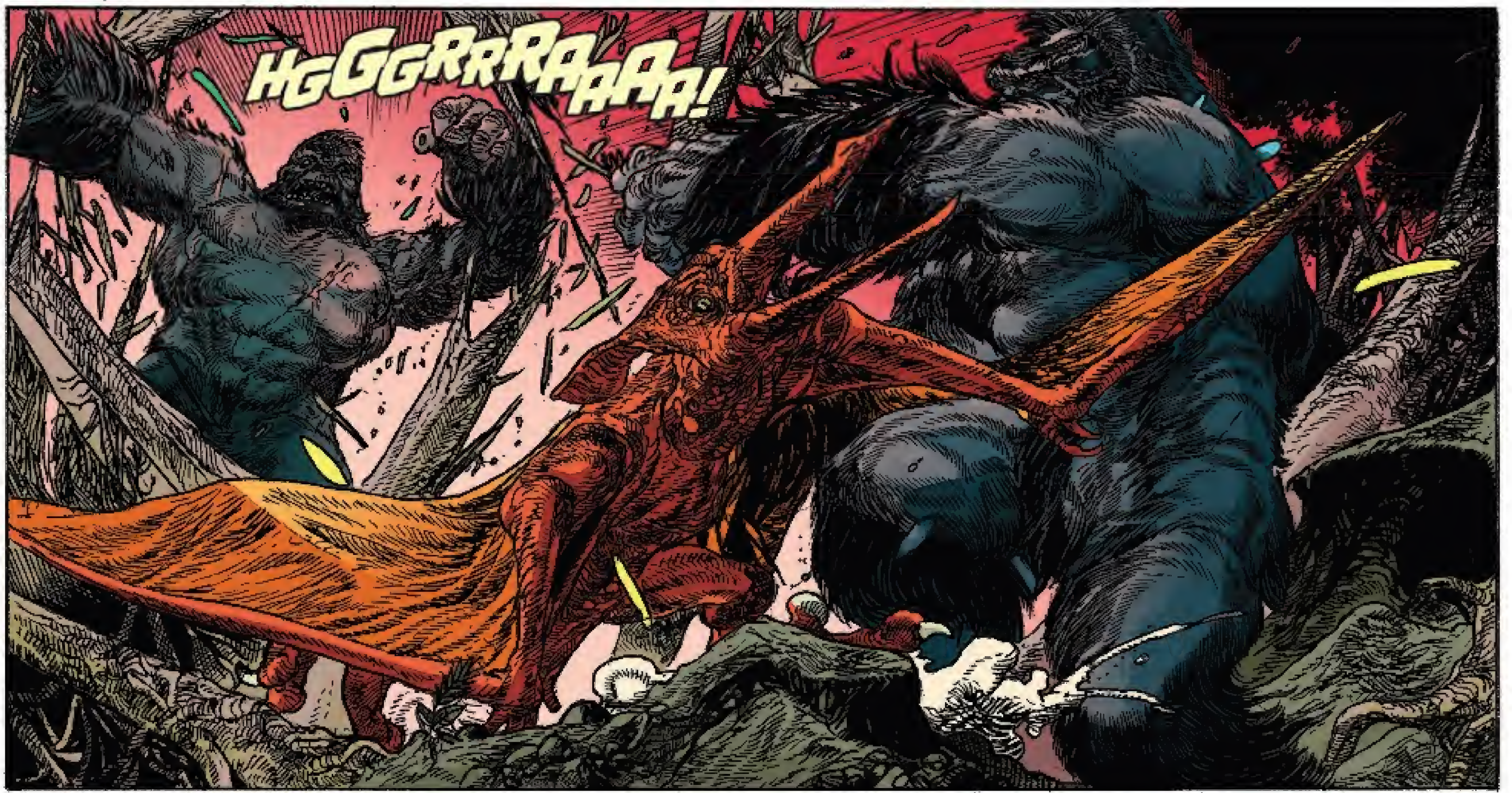
CRAWL  
TO THE  
TREES!

IT WILL  
BE SAFER  
THAN--

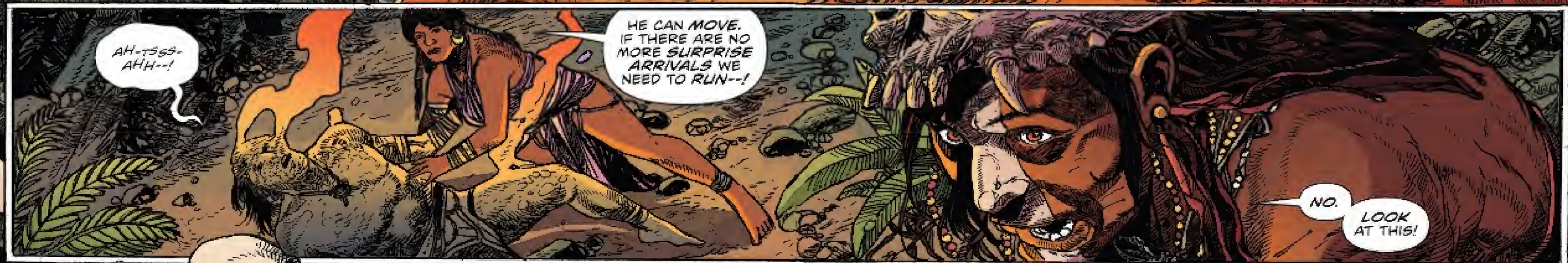












AH-TSS-  
AHH--!

HE CAN MOVE.  
IF THERE ARE NO  
MORE SURPRISE  
ARRIVALS WE  
NEED TO RUN--!

NO.  
LOOK  
AT THIS!













K'IIIN!



BLESSINGS  
BE UNTO THE  
ATU PEOPLE!



BLESSING--!



NOOOO!

SPUNKS

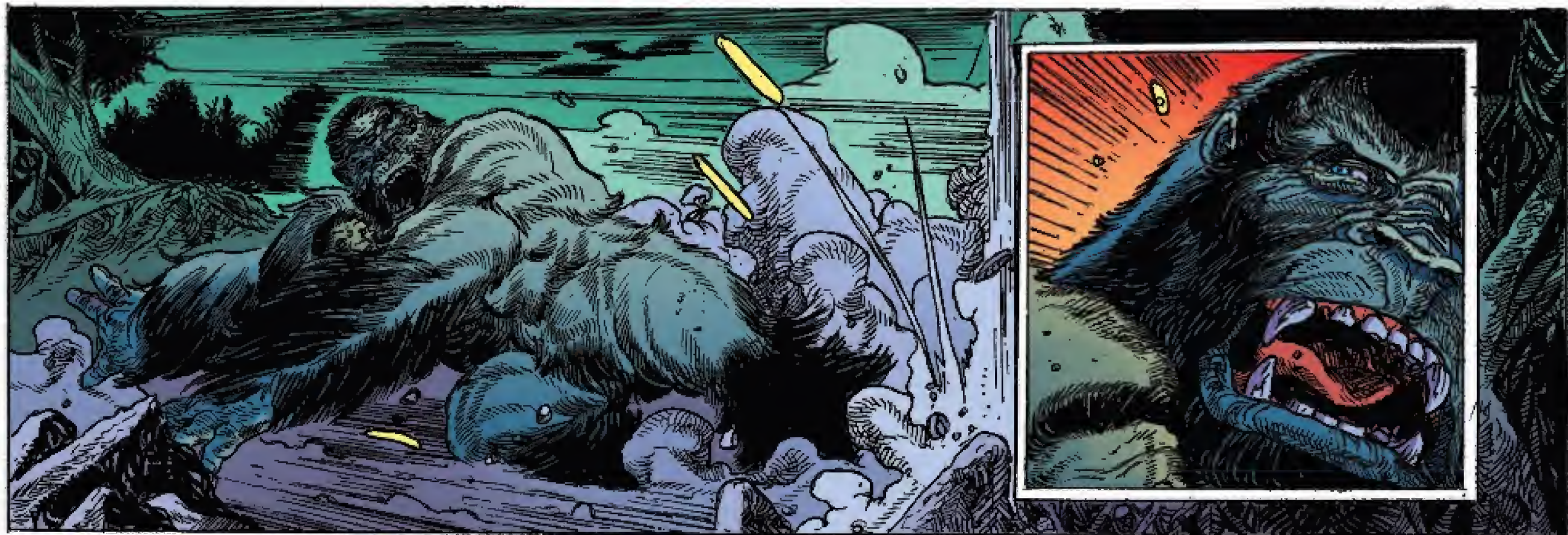


BACK...  
STAY  
BACK...

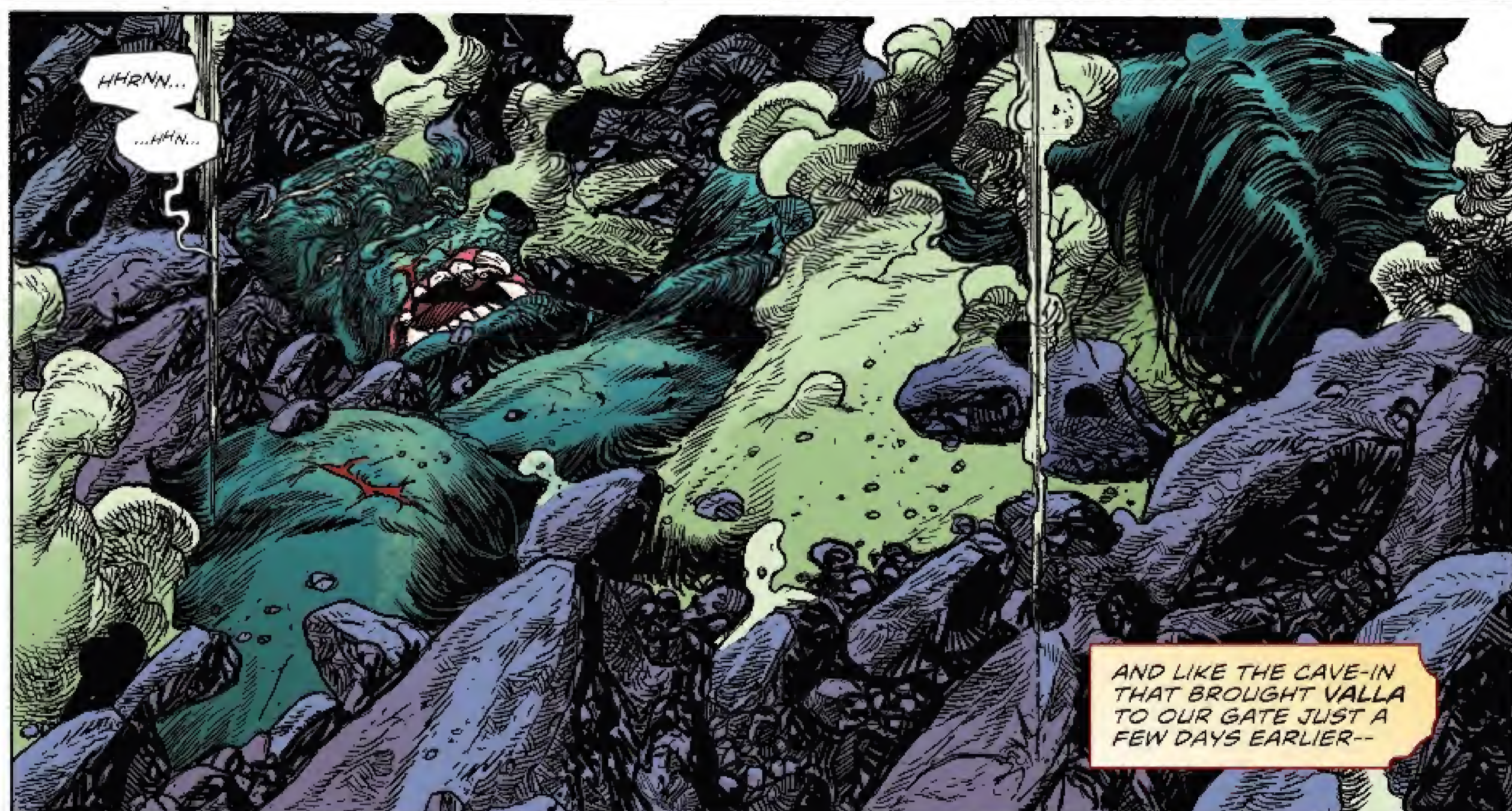
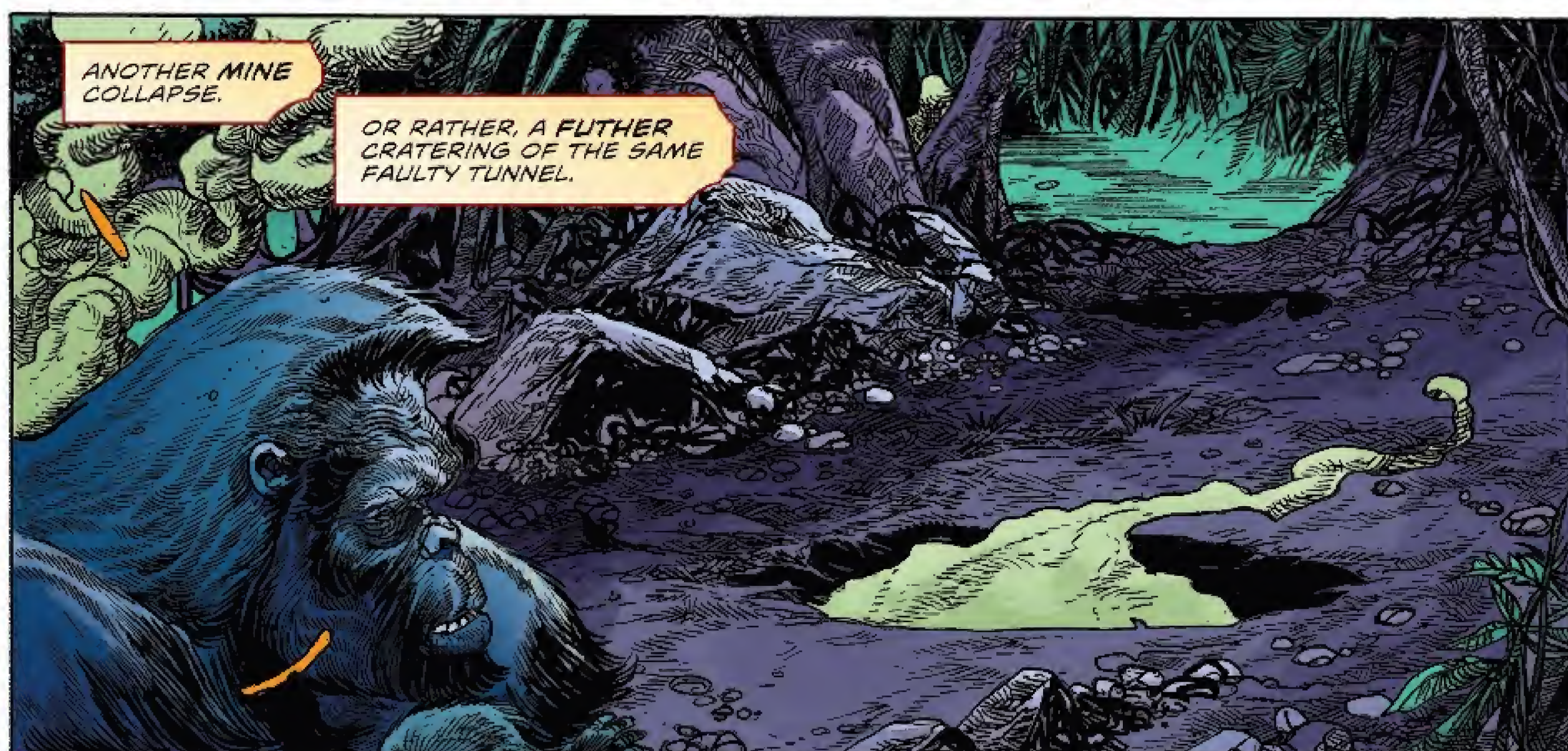
















--THE EXILED KONG CAME ONLY TO DELIVER SOMEONE ELSE TO SAFETY BEHIND OUR WALL.



EVEN WITH YEARS APART, EWATA STILL KNEW THE KONG SHE RAISED WELL ENOUGH TO ROUGHLY UNDERSTAND HER STORY.



THOUGH, KNOWING QUEEN EWATA AS I DO--I SUSPECT IT WAS NOT WORDS THAT PERSUADED HER.



I FEEL COMPELLED TO WARN YOU, COUSIN--THERE ARE MANY AMONG OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT HAPPY YOU VISIT WITH OUR EXILE.

THIS WAS...A UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

AND YOU MAY RELAY THAT PROMISE IN YOUR RECORDS.



I DID ECHO HER WORDS TO ME HERE IN MY ACCOUNTS AS STORYTELLER.

THE PRINCESS HAS HER MOTHER'S... FONDNESS FOR BEASTS.

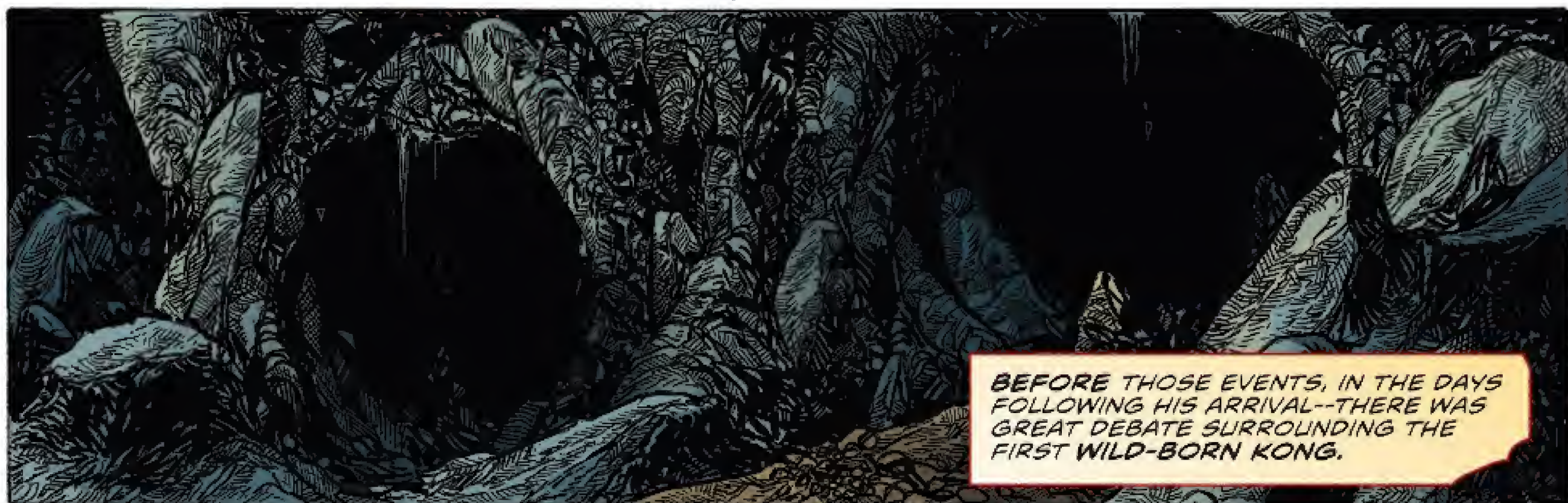
A WARY MAN MIGHT FEAR THE DAY WE ARE RULED BY QUEEN K'VANNI--AND A KONG AS HER KING...

JUST AS THE NEXT HISTORY WILL RECOUNT THE BETRAYALS THAT LEAD QUEEN EWATA TO BREAK THAT VOW--





--AND ABANDON  
HER THRONE FOR  
GOOD.



BEFORE THOSE EVENTS, IN THE DAYS  
FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL--THERE WAS  
GREAT DEBATE SURROUNDING THE  
FIRST WILD-BORN KONG.



DOUBT, FEARFULNESS, AND  
SIMPLE CAUTION SENT A  
LARGE GROUP OF MEN DOWN  
THE TUNNELS LOOKING TO  
VERIFY THE STORY--

--AND TO SEAL ANY EXPOSURES BEFORE  
SOMETHING DANGEROUS COULD ENTER.



THE MEN DID FIND A  
SECOND COLLAPSE SITE,  
BUT, WHEN THEY DID--



--THERE WAS NOTHING  
LEFT BUT RUBBLE,  
SOME BLOOD--

--AND A LINGERING SENSE  
THAT WE WILL NEVER TRULY  
UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS  
BEYOND OUR WALL.



**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# KONG

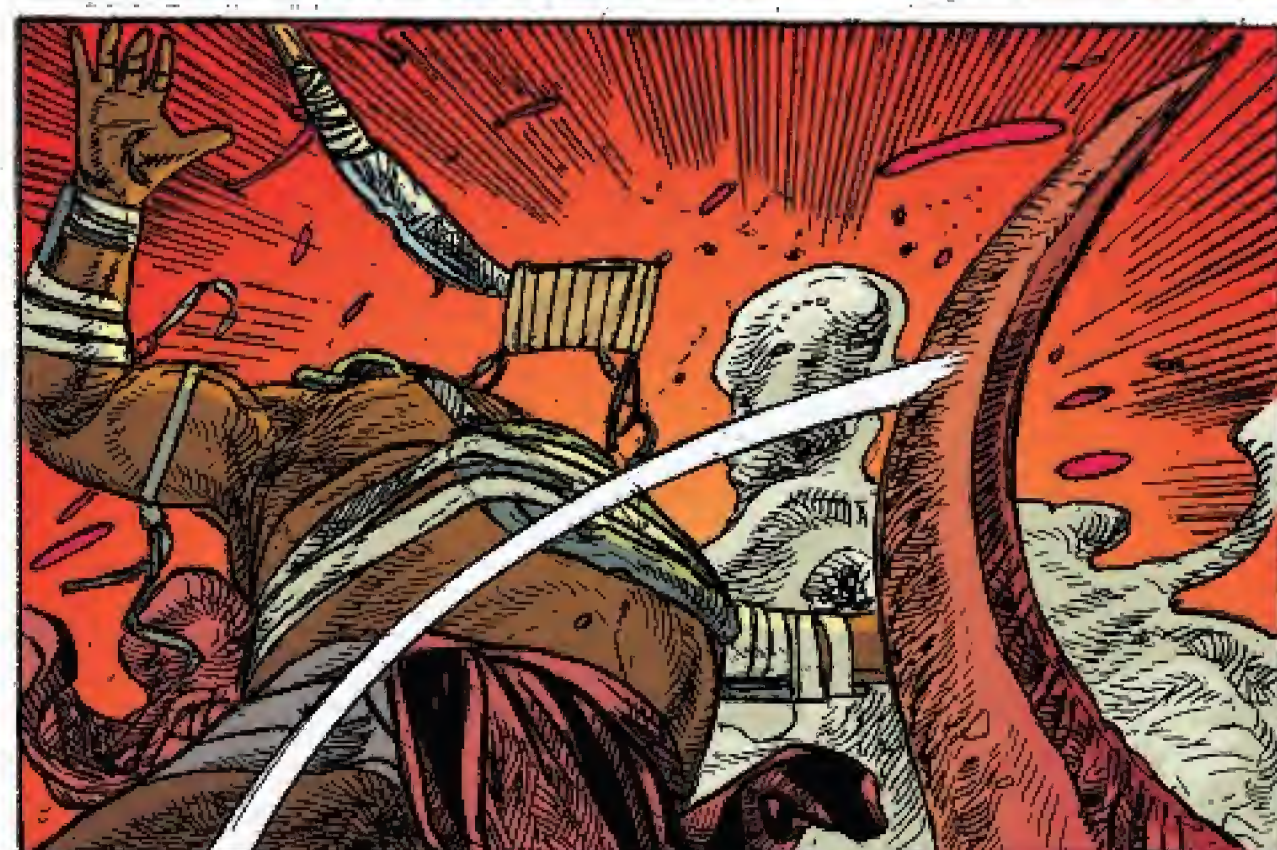
## OF SKULL ISLAND

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
JEREMY LAWSON

NO. 9  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS











WHAT IN  
THE NAME OF YOUR  
DAMNEDEST GODS  
DO YOU THINK YOU  
ARE DOING?!





THE DEMON...  
YOUR GRACE, IT  
FOUND ITS WAY  
THROUGH THE  
MINING TUNNELS  
TO OUR GATE,  
AND--

AND THE KONG  
ARE TRAINED TO  
CRUSH ANY SUCH  
THREATS. THAT IS  
WHY THEY RESIDE  
ON THIS END OF  
OUR SHORE.



YET--YOUR  
PRECIOUS  
KONG WERE  
NOT HERE...  
MY QUEEN.

AMONG US ARE  
MEMBERS OF YOUR  
ROYAL COUNCIL--ARE  
YOU SAYING THAT  
POSITION COMES  
WITH NO TRUE  
AUTHORITY IN YOUR  
ABSENCE?

WE WOULD BE  
PARALYZED THE  
NEXT TIME A  
DEMON STEALS  
OFF WITH YOUR--



YES. MY DAUGHTER  
DOES NOT NEED TO BE  
REMINDED OF HER  
EXPERIENCE...

BUT THAT  
IS PRECISELY WHY  
WE HAVE THE GATE OF  
ORE--AND WHY YOU WAIT  
UNTIL A KONG RETURNS  
TO HANDLE THOSE  
CREATURES.



MANY OF US  
HAVE SUFFERED  
AT THE JAWS OF  
DEMONS.

AND THERE  
IS MORE THAN  
ONE LESSON TO BE  
LEARNED FROM THE  
EXPERIENCE.







I DON'T KNOW WHAT STORIES YOU TELL THESE MEN, AGUUL.

YET IN MY WAKING HOURS, IT DRIVES ME TO INSURE OUR PEOPLE ARE SAFE.

BUT YOU AND I FACED THE SAME NIGHTMARE AT THE HEART OF THIS ISLAND. I RELIVE IT ALL TOO OFTEN IN MY DREAMS.



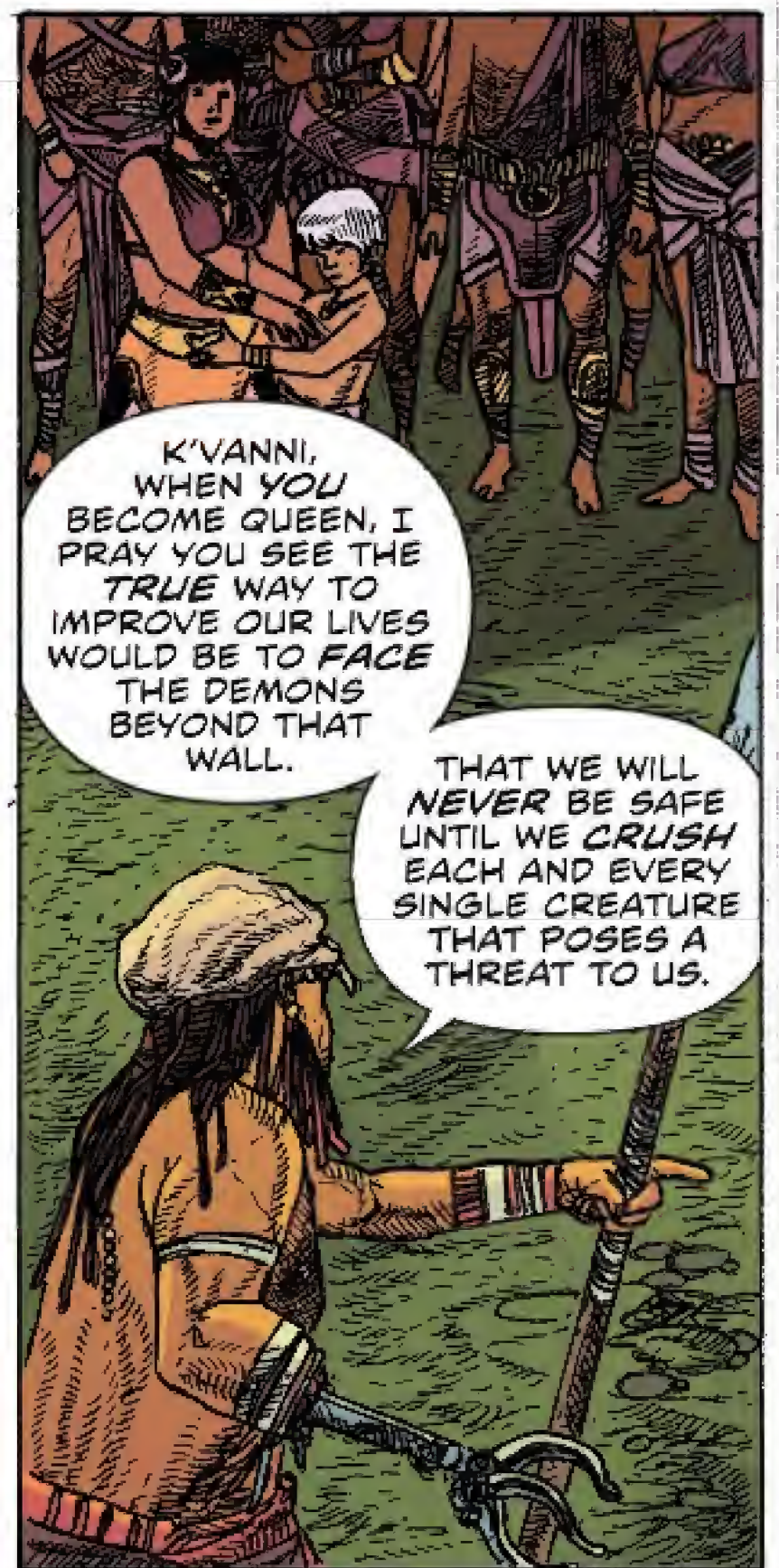
WHILE YOU, IT SEEMS, ARE INTENT ON DRIVING OTHERS INTO THE HORROR YOU SUFFERED.

FIRST WITH THIS FORTRESS OBSESSION OF YOURS--NOW IN PREPPING YOUR BROTHERS FOR WAR?



WE ONLY NEED WEAPONS BECAUSE WE ARE UNDER ATTACK.

THE EXPANSION WE BUILD FOR OUR PEOPLE MUST BE A FORTRESS BECAUSE WE ARE UNDER ATTACK.



K'VANNI, WHEN YOU BECOME QUEEN, I PRAY YOU SEE THE TRUE WAY TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES WOULD BE TO FACE THE DEMONS BEYOND THAT WALL.

THAT WE WILL NEVER BE SAFE UNTIL WE CRUSH EACH AND EVERY SINGLE CREATURE THAT POSES A THREAT TO US.



AND WHO AMONG YOU ARE ANXIOUS TO DIE IN THESE BATTLES?

DIE AS EVEN YOUR SHAMAN AND HIS DAUGHTER DID?

WHEN WILL YOU PEOPLE REALIZE THAT YOUR GODS WILL NOT PROTECT YOU HERE?!



OUR GODS, MOTHER.

WE LEAD THE TAGU AND THE ATU. SO THOSE ARE OUR GODS YOU SPEAK OF, TOO.



OF COURSE. APOLOGIES, I...

WE CAN DISCUSS THIS MORE, IF YOU WISH, AT THE NEXT COUNCIL.

BUT I'M SORRY--





"LESSONS"? THAT ILLEGITIMATE QUEEN SHELTERS HER BASTARD DAUGHTER AWAY FROM EVERY DANGER AND UGLY FACT OF THIS PLACE!

IF THE GIRL IS ALLOWED TO ASCEND TO POWER--SHE MAY BE EVEN MORE OBLIVIOUS THAN HER MOTHER.

WE MUST FACE THE TRUTH THAT WE ALONE CAN SAVE OUR PEOPLE.

HOLD. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW SHE WOULD RULE. K'VANNI IS JUST A CHILD.

EESA, YOU SAID YOURSELF THE TIMES SHE JOINED THE COUNCIL, SHE BARELY SPOKE!

AND THE GIRL SUFFERED AN EXPERIENCE WITH THE DEMONS THAT I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE.

SHE WAS VERY YOUNG. THE GIRL MAY WELL HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT HORROR.

THEN PERHAPS WE NEED TO REMIND HER.





EESA--WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?!

ONLY THAT WE *SHOW* HER WHAT THIS CITADEL COULD MEAN FOR OUR PEOPLE!

YEARS OF INSISTING, SCROUNGING MATERIALS FROM *SCRAPS*, RISKING OUR LIVES TO BUILD THE FIRST STAGES OF THIS PLACE.



B'SAN SITS ON THE COUNCIL--HE CAN ATTEST!

TRUE. I JOINED WITH ATU IN APPROVING AN EXPANSION. THERE IS NO ROOM ON THE SHORE FOR A NEXT GENERATION!

YET EWATA HAS DONE *EVERYTHING* IN HER POWER TO UNDERMINE OUR EFFORTS, WHILE MAKING A HOLLOW FACE OF HONORING OUR VOTE.



WITH KONG AT HER SIDE, EWATA WILL *NEVER* UNDERSTAND HOW THE REST OF US FEEL--

--IMPOTENT IN A LAND TEEMING WITH *MONSTERS* AS FICKLE AND VICIOUS AS *GODS*.



SHE RESTS ALL OUR LIVES AND SAFETY AT THE FEET OF THOSE KONG!

THE SAME CREATURES THAT *TURNED* ON OUR FAMILIES--OUR FRIENDS AND CHILDREN THE MINUTE OUR OLD HOME BEGAN TO CRUMBLE.



AND EVEN *AFTER* THAT--SHE CONVINCED HER LOVE, THE PRINCE, TO LET KONG FILL THE ESCAPE SHIPS INSTEAD OF OUR *WOUNDED*.

EWATA CHOSE THE LIVES OF HER PETS OVER THE HUNDREDS WHO DIED WAITING.

...OVER THE LIVES OF MY *HUSBAND* AND *MOTHER*.



EWATA HAS NEVER BEEN OUR QUEEN. SHE IS QUEEN OF THE KONG.

AND WITH THE CHILD KONG AT HER SIDE, K'VANNI FOLLOWS IN THOSE FOOTSTEPS.

BUT THE TAGU-ATU WILL ONLY THRIVE AFTER WE HAVE *SLAUGHTERED* EVERY LAST MONSTER ON THIS ISLAND--

--BEGINNING WITH THE KONG.





OUR KONG?!  
THAT--THAT  
WOULD BE  
SUICIDE!

NO. THE HEART OF THE  
CITADEL IS COMPLETE. WE  
ARE FORTIFIED AGAINST THE  
DEMON LIZARDS--WE CAN  
DEFEND THIS PLACE!

STRIKE  
FROM  
SAFETY!

WE HAVE  
WEAPONS.  
ARMOR.



HOW...?

ALLIES TO OUR  
CAUSE HAVE BEEN  
SIPHONING ORE  
FROM THE MINING  
HAULS.

IT WAS THE  
ONLY WAY TO  
FINISH EVEN  
THIS MUCH OF  
THE CITADEL.

WE HAVE  
ALREADY FOUGHT  
OFF--KILLED--  
MORE DEMONS  
THAN THE KONG  
CAN CLAIM.



ALL THE EASIER  
TO CLEAR THE  
ISLAND WITH  
THE APES!

YANO, WE  
BROUGHT YOU  
HERE BECAUSE YOU  
BELIEVED OUR  
PEOPLE ARE  
STRANGLING ON  
THE SHORE.

EWATA,  
STUBBORNLY,  
DOES NOT. AND  
AS THE ONLY ONE  
IN CONTROL OF THE  
KONG, SHE CAN  
CRUSH ANY  
OPPOSITION WITH  
THE WAVE OF HER  
HAND.



EWATA CREATED  
A COUNCIL TO  
FEIGN THAT THE  
PEOPLE HAVE A  
VOICE.

BUT AS LONG  
AS THE THREAT OF  
KONG CAN SILENCE  
US--SHE IS  
NOTHING MORE  
THAN A SMILING  
TYRANT.



NO...

NONE OF YOU  
WERE THERE ON  
THE FIRST SHIP  
THAT SAILED HERE--  
CRASHED  
AND...

EWATA  
SAVED US. SHE  
BROUGHT HER  
KONG TO SAVE  
OUR LIVES!



YANO,  
WAIT--

NO. IF WE  
TRY TO FORCE  
HIM, WE ARE NO  
BETTER THAN  
EWATA.

YOU  
CAN GO. HERE.  
WARDING  
SCENTS TO  
PROTECT YOU  
ON THE WALK  
BACK.

TH--  
THANK  
YOU.









I PRAY  
IT TOOK A MOST  
REMARKABLE  
BOOK, GRET--



--IF IT KEPT YOU  
SO ENGROSSED,  
YOU FORGOT TO  
WAKE ME FROM  
MY SLEEP.

SO, WHAT  
BOOK--?

EWATA,  
LOVE, I...I WAS  
SUPPOSED TO  
WAKE YOU AT  
DAWN. MY  
APOLOGIES. I  
LOST SENSE  
OF TIME.

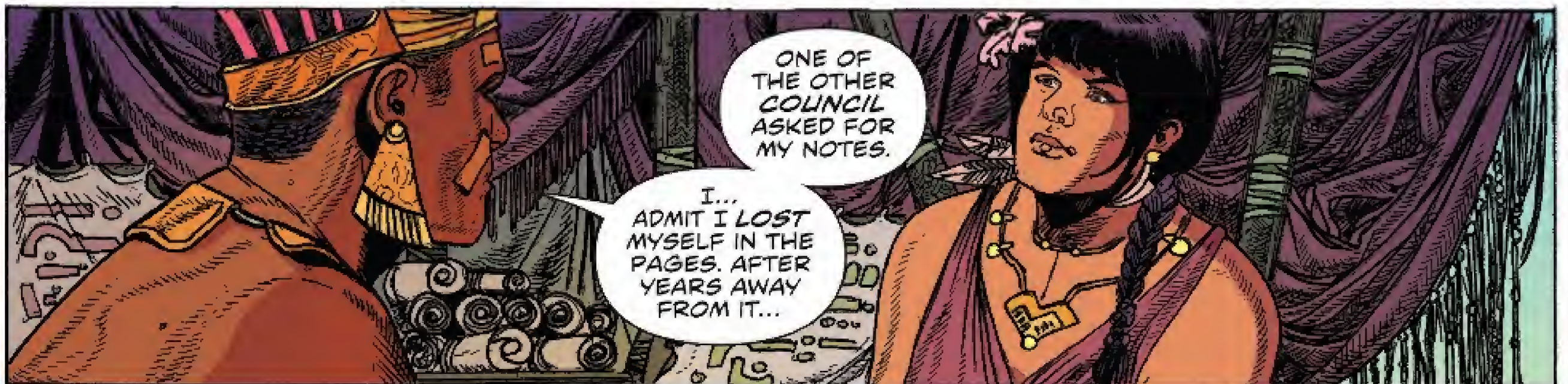




AH...  
I...

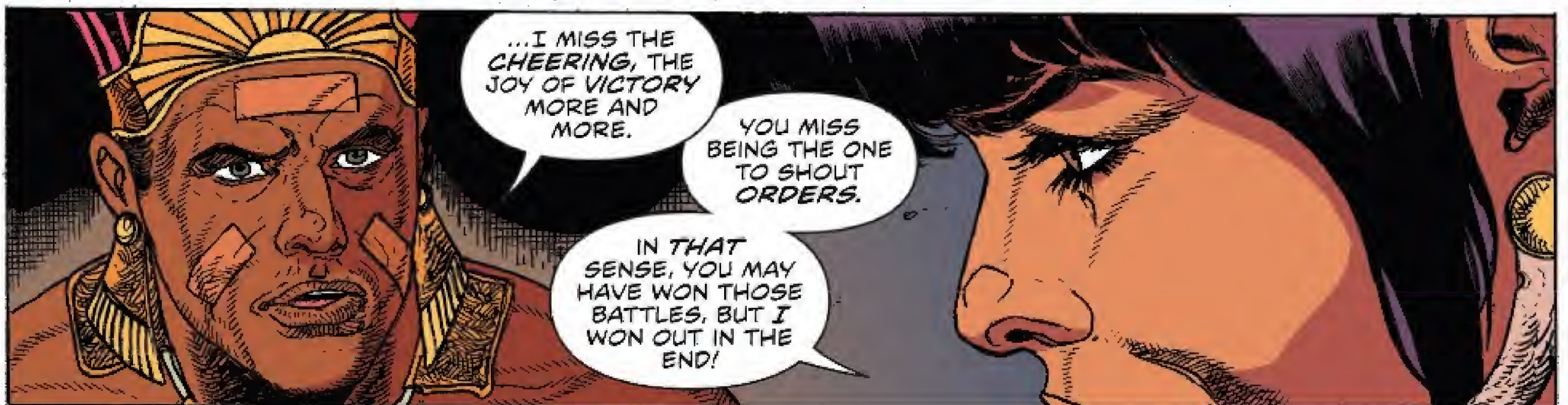
ARE  
THESE YOUR  
TRAINER  
RECORDS?

BECOMING  
THE...CLOSEST  
ADVISER TO  
THE QUEEN HAS  
GROWN SO  
TIRESOME YOU  
LONG TO PROD  
KONG INTO THE  
FIGHTING  
PIT?!



ONE OF  
THE OTHER  
COUNCIL  
ASKED FOR  
MY NOTES.

I...  
ADMIT I LOST  
MYSELF IN THE  
PAGES. AFTER  
YEARS AWAY  
FROM IT...



...I MISS THE  
CHEERING, THE  
JOY OF VICTORY  
MORE AND  
MORE.

YOU MISS  
BEING THE ONE  
TO SHOUT  
ORDERS.

IN THAT  
SENSE, YOU MAY  
HAVE WON THOSE  
BATTLES, BUT I  
WON OUT IN THE  
END!



YOU SHOULD NOT  
JOKE ABOUT YOUR  
POSITION LIKE THAT,  
EWATA.

WHAT?!

IT UPSETS  
PEOPLE WHEN  
YOU WIELD  
THE CROWN  
SO...SO...



FORGET  
MY WORDS.  
I HAVE A  
SLEEPLESS  
TONGUE.

NO!  
FINISH. AND  
TELL ME  
WHICH  
PEOPLE I  
OFFEND--

--THE  
UNNAMED  
COUNCIL  
PERSON YOU  
SPENT THE  
NIGHT  
SERVING?!

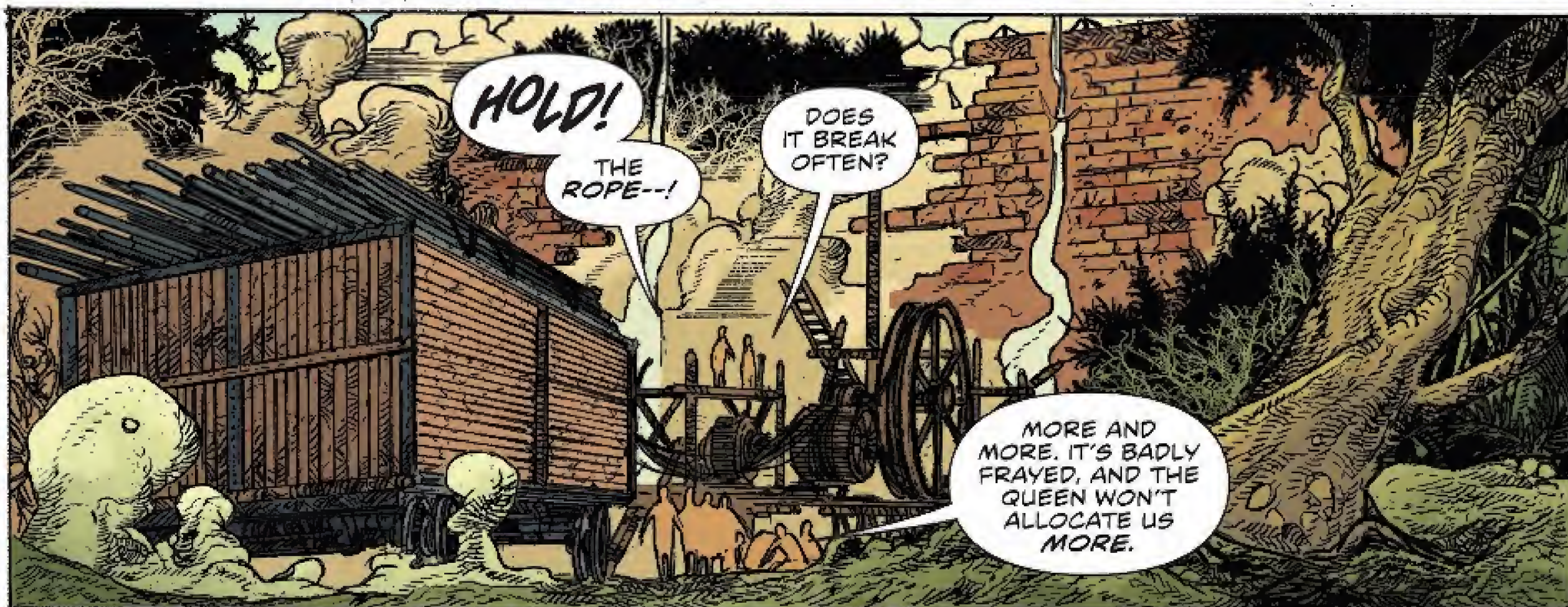


PERHAPS  
YOU WOULD  
ALREADY KNOW  
WHO YOU OFFEND  
IF YOU LISTENED  
MORE THAN YOU  
GAVE ORDERS.

















HRRNPH

SKPPLE...



VALLA!  
IT IS  
YOU?

I--GRET.  
REMEMBER?  
ATU? FROM  
THE PIT--?



SK  
KR  
AK

I...I CAME TO HELP  
OUR PEOPLE. THE  
ONE BUILDING.

THEY...  
SAID THEY'VE  
FOUND DEAD  
DEMONS.

THAT  
WAS YOU  
WASN'T IT?  
YOU  
PROTECT  
THEM?



HRMPF

VALLA!  
WAIT!

I...SEE IT.  
I WONDERED  
HOW THEY EVEN  
SURVIVED--WHILE  
THEY WORKED--SO  
EXPOSED OUT  
HERE? BUT YOU  
PROTECTED  
THEM!

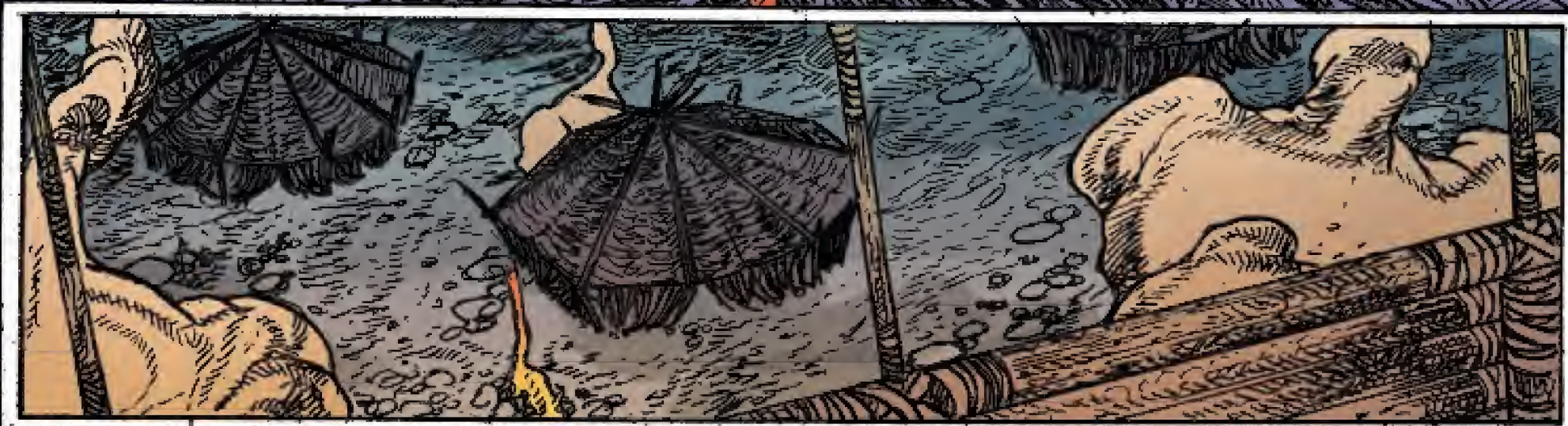


EVEN  
AFTER YOU  
WERE  
EXILED...



HHFKFF





HOW WERE TODAY'S HISTORIES WITH OUR BELOVED STORYTELLER?

BORING. THE WHOLE DAY WAS ABOUT HOW OUR ANCESTORS BUILT THE FIRST KONG ARENA.

I NEVER HAD A MIND FOR BUILDING.

BUT I ALWAYS FELT PROUD OUR PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A TEMPLE AS STRONG AND GRAND AS THE KONG OUR BREEDERS RAISED.

BUT THE KONG WERE DANGEROUS WHEN OUR PEOPLE FOUND THEM?

SO SAY THE STORIES. FIRST WE BRED THEM TO BE AMONG PEOPLE. THEN WE BRED THEM FOR SIZE AND POWER.

...BUT THE ARENA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THEIR FIGHTS?

YEESS...

THEN WHY CAN'T OUR PEOPLE BUILD THE CITADEL IN THE ISLAND?

IF WE COULD CONTAIN THE KONG--

THESE DEMONS ARE NOT LIKE THE KONG!

MAYBE NOT NOW! BUT OUR PEOPLE TAMED THE KONG!

WHY CAN'T WE DO THE SAME WITH THE--





BECAUSE  
NOW I  
KNOW.

PEOPLE  
CANNOT  
TAME  
NATURE.

WE CAN ONLY  
HOPE TO CIVILIZE  
OURSELVES.



AND IF YOU GO  
OUT THERE--IF  
YOU EVEN STEP  
INTO THEIR  
FIGHT--

--YOU WILL  
NEVER BE ABLE  
TO BRING  
THEM UP.

BUT  
THEY CAN  
TEAR YOU  
DOWN.



MAYBE...

...OR  
MAYBE YOU  
NEVER FOUND  
A WAY.

BUT  
MAYBE I  
CAN?!

I AM THE  
ONE WHO HAS  
TO LEAD. I AM  
ROYAL BLOOD.  
HEIR OF THE  
GODS--!



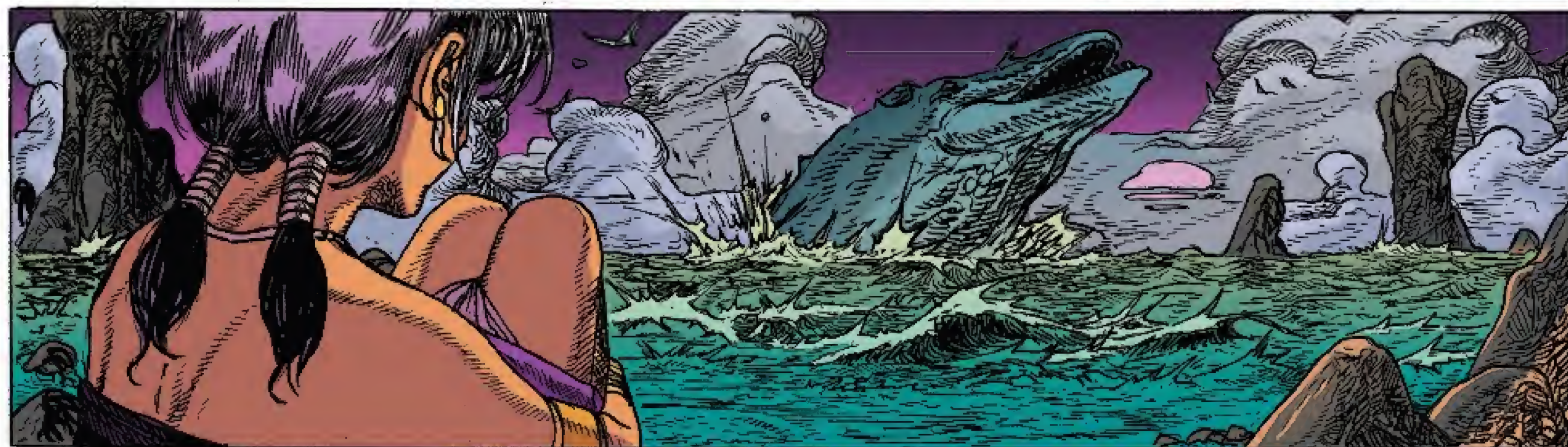
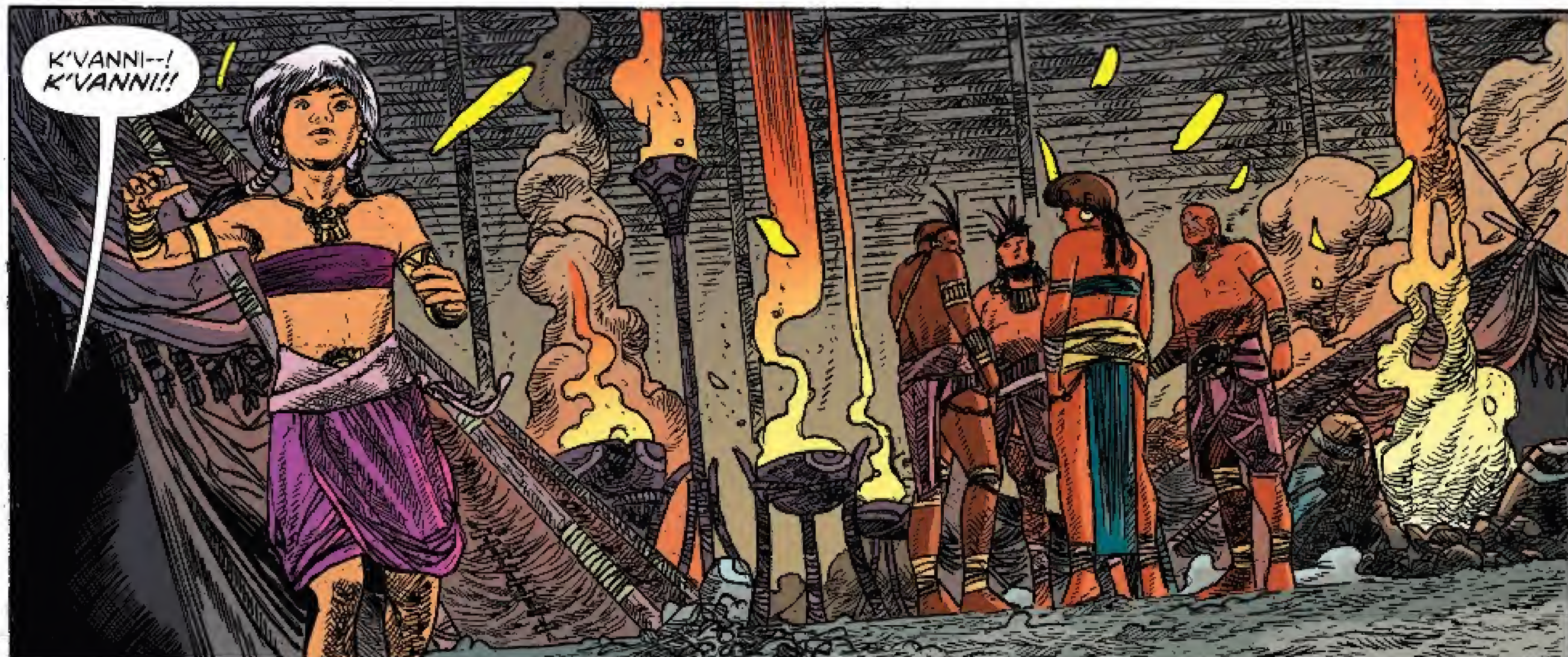
YOU  
ARE A  
CHILD!

AND THERE  
ARE DANGERS  
WAITING FOR YOU  
THAT YOU KNOW  
NOTHING  
ABOUT!!



HR'NGAAA!







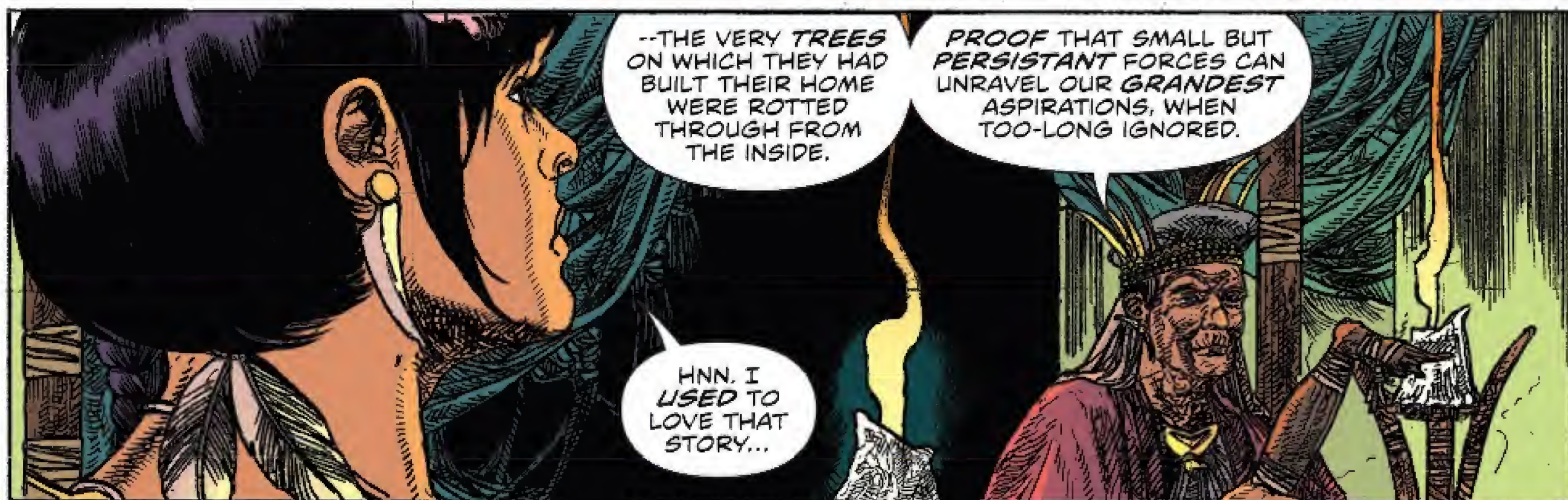


BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE FAMILY HAD SPENT *TWO ENTIRE SEASONS* BUILDING THEIR NEW REFUGE IN THE TREE TOPS.

BUT WITHIN *MOMENTS* OF MOVING BED AND BODY INTO THE FINISHED HOME--

--THE *ENTIRE WOODS* COLLAPSED BENEATH THEM!

AFTER NURSING INJURED LIMBS AND PRIDE, THEY THEN SAW CLEARLY WHAT NONE HAD CONSIDERED AT THE START--



--THE *VERY TREES* ON WHICH THEY HAD BUILT THEIR HOME WERE ROTTED THROUGH FROM THE INSIDE.

*PROOF* THAT SMALL BUT *PERSISTANT* FORCES CAN UNRAVEL OUR *GRANDEST* ASPIRATIONS, WHEN TOO-LONG IGNORED.

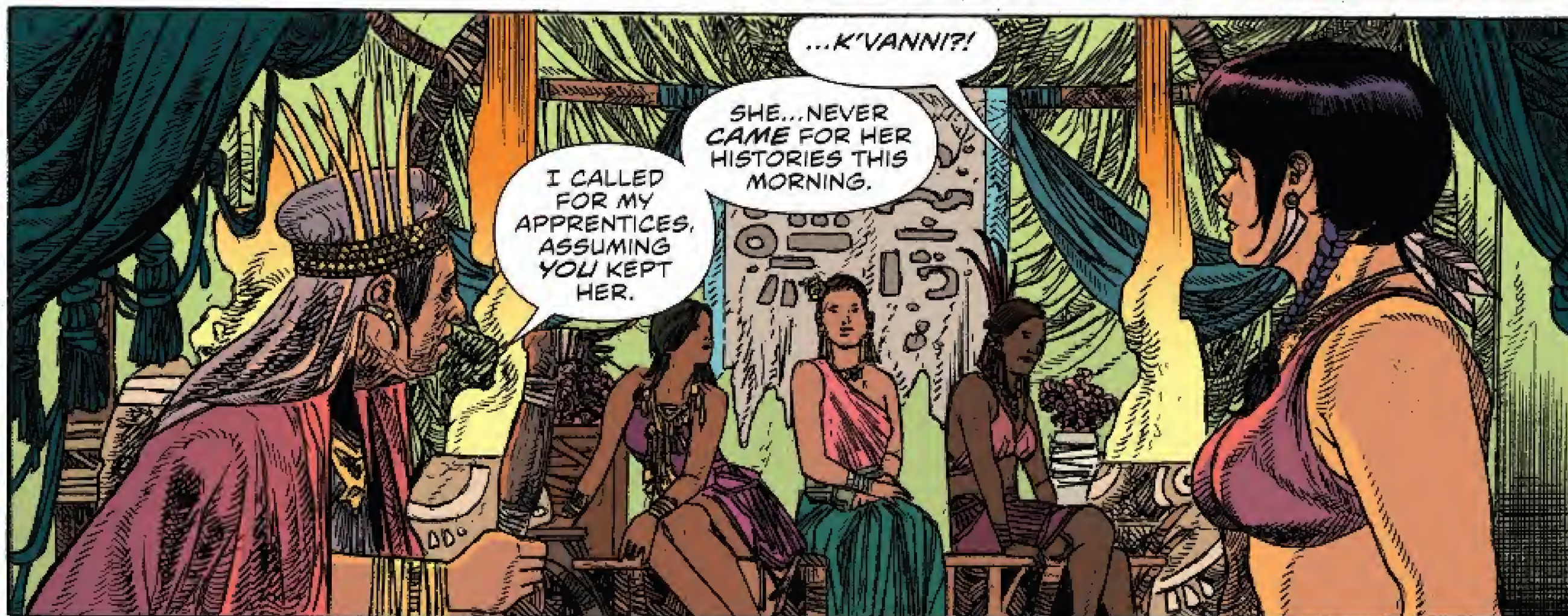
HNN. I *USED* TO LOVE THAT STORY...



AH. A VISIT FROM THE *QUEEN*? TO WHAT DO WE OWE THE PLEASURE?

BLESSED MORNING, STORYTELLER. BUT THIS IS NO FORMAL OCCASION.

I COME AS A *MOTHER* WHO NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE TO HER...



...K'VANNI?!

SHE...NEVER CAME FOR HER HISTORIES THIS MORNING.

I CALLED FOR MY APPRENTICES, ASSUMING YOU KEPT HER.









I HAVE LEARNED  
TO FEAR THAT  
LOOK ON YOUR  
FACE. WHERE ARE  
YOU OFF TO?

TO FIND  
AGUUL.



AND IF HE IS  
NOWHERE--  
I WILL FIND HIS  
FAMILY.

HIS FRIENDS.  
EVERYONE WITH  
EYES THAT HAVE  
LOOKED HIS WAY  
SINCE DAWN!

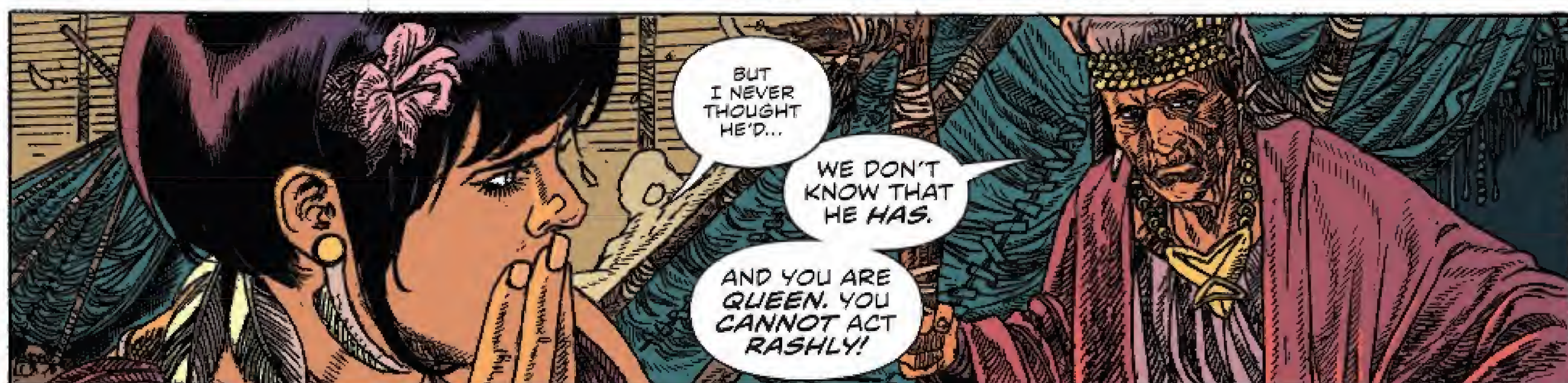
EWATA.  
THIS IS THAT  
PARANOIA  
AGAIN.

I BITE MY  
TONGUE, BUT  
AFTER YOUR  
CONFLICT WITH  
USANA, YOU  
TRUST NO  
ONE--



I KNOW  
HE HAS BEEN  
TRYING TO  
POISON THE  
COUNCIL  
AGAINST  
ME.

AND THAT HE'S  
CLOSE ENOUGH  
TO WHATEVER HE  
INTENDS FOR HIS  
SPITE TO GROW  
NAKED.



BUT  
I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
HE'D...

WE DON'T  
KNOW THAT  
HE HAS.

AND YOU ARE  
QUEEN. YOU  
CANNOT ACT  
RASHLY!



SNFF

YOU ARE  
RIGHT...

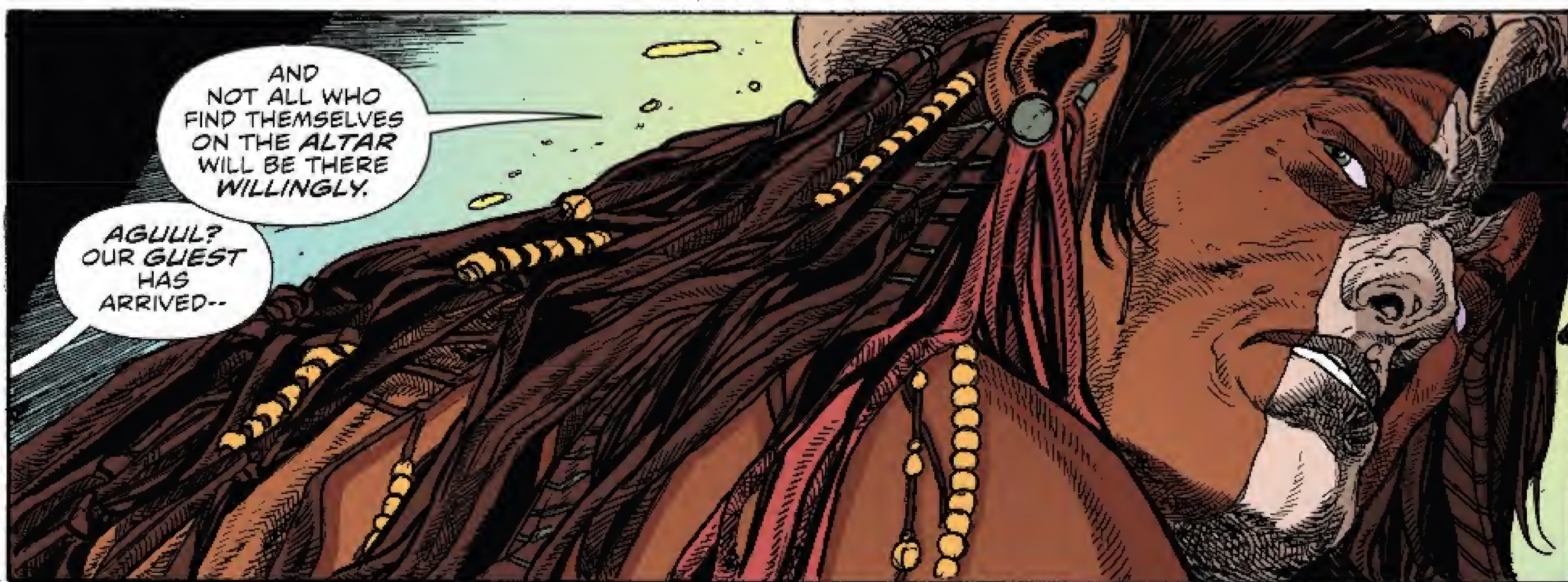
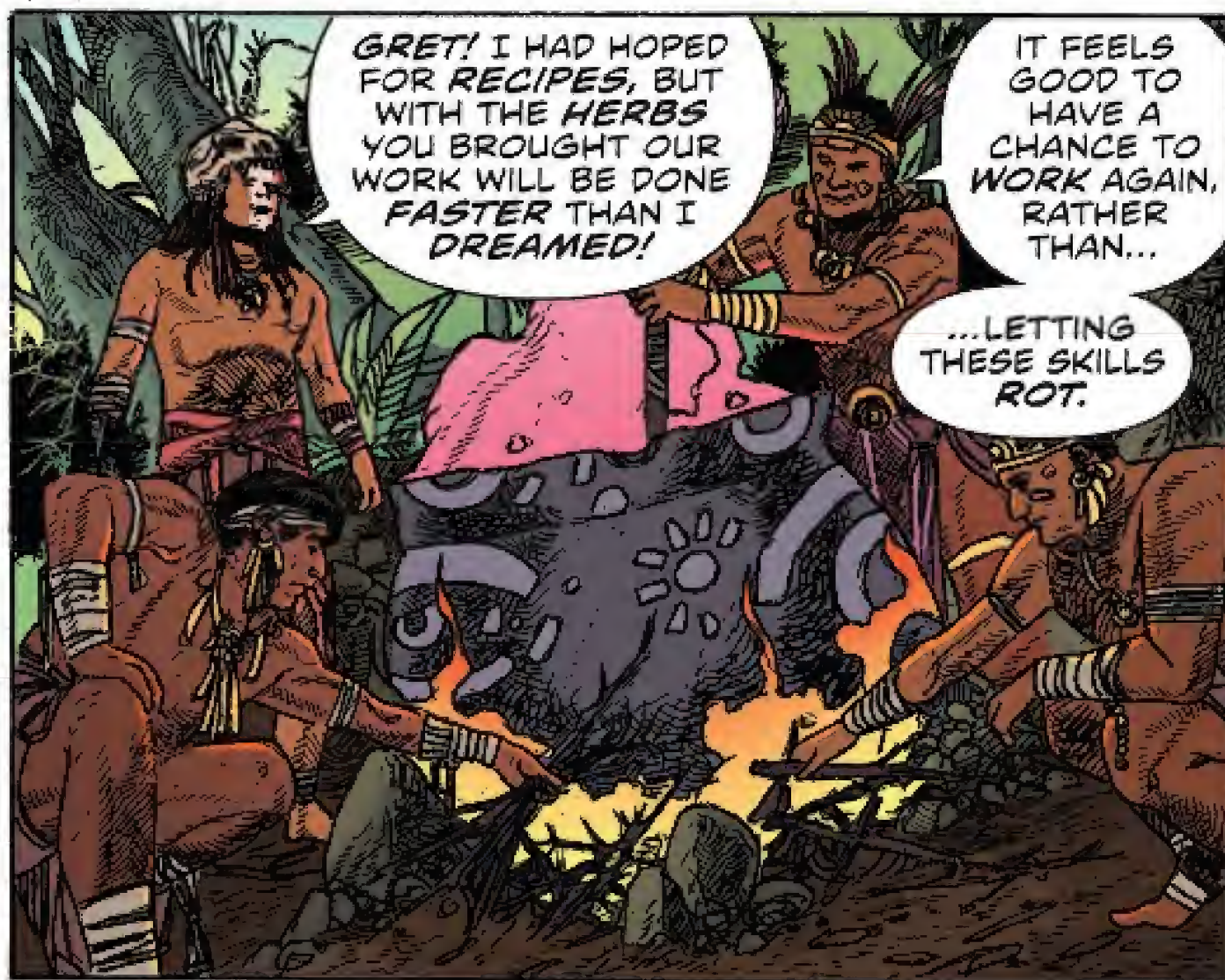
BUT I CAN  
GO TO GRET  
TO LEARN  
WHAT HE  
KNOWS.

AND  
IF THEY  
HAVE DONE  
ANYTHING  
TO HER--



--I  
CAN KILL  
THEM.









**--PRINCESS  
K'VANNI  
HERSELF!**

YOUR GRACE!  
WELCOME!

AS THE  
GODS WOULD  
HAVE IT, I WAS  
JUST SPEAKING  
OF YOU...

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

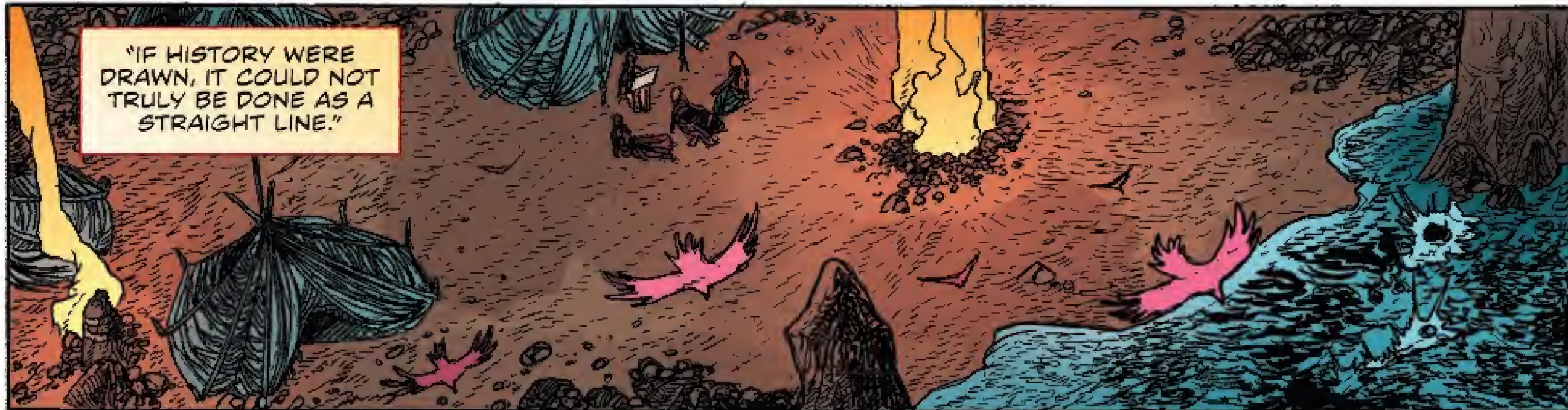
JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
JEREMY LAWSON

NO. 11

**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS







"IF HISTORY WERE  
DRAWN, IT COULD NOT  
TRULY BE DONE AS A  
STRAIGHT LINE."

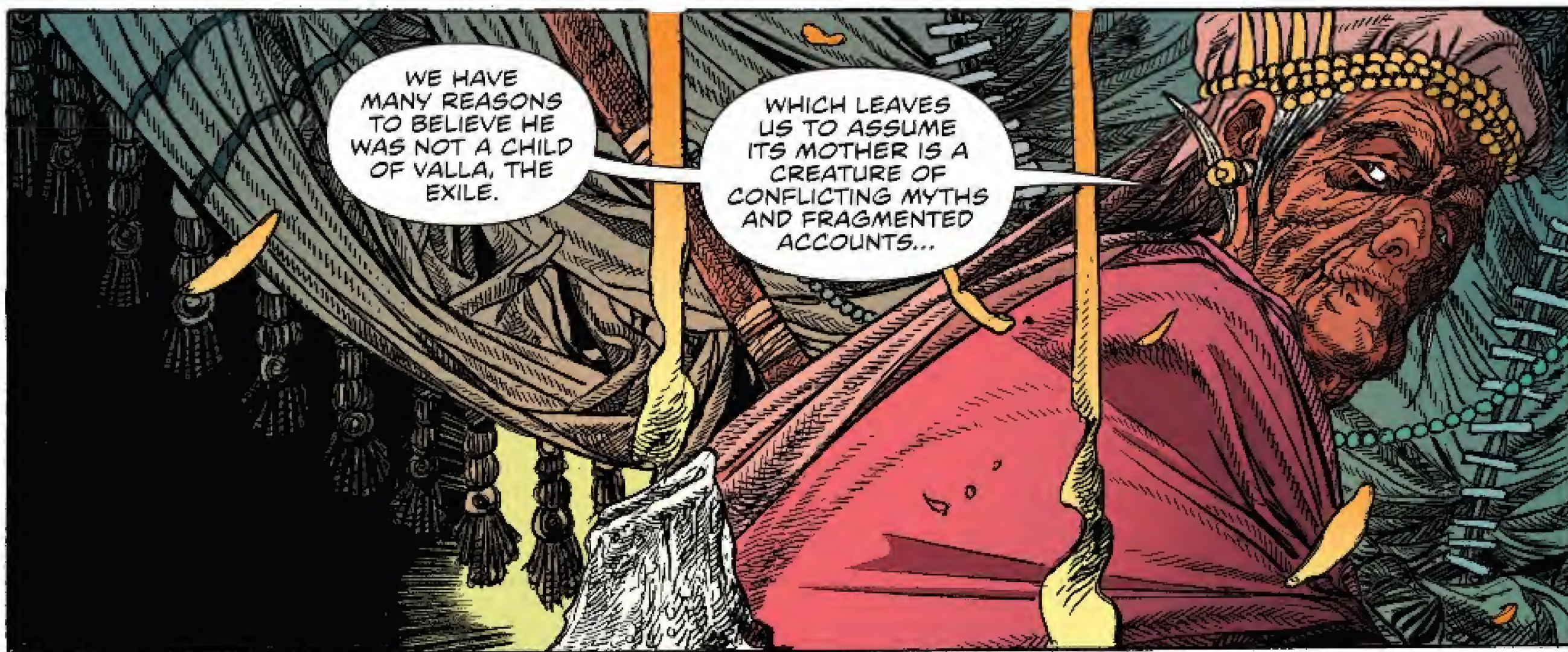


YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND  
YOURSELF, IN EXPLAINING  
HOW A MOMENT AROSE,  
NEEDING TO DOUBLE BACK  
AND PICK UP A THREAD  
THAT HAD SLIPPED  
FROM FOCUS.



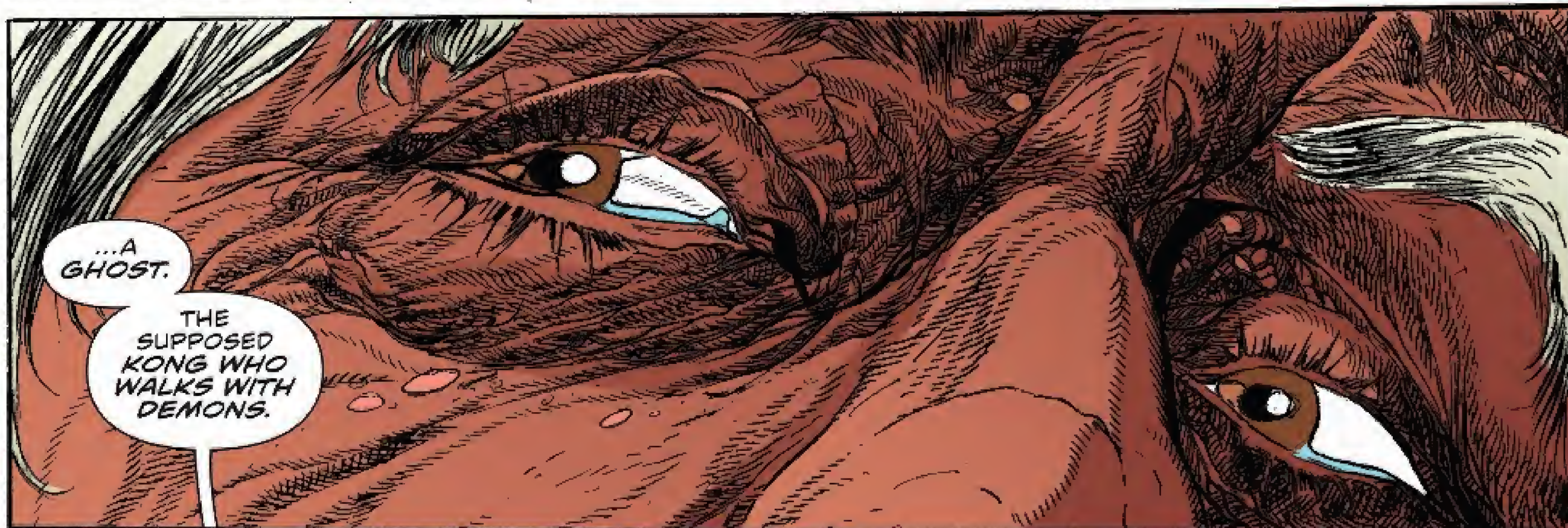
FOR THIS TEST, AS  
YOU EACH DRAFT A  
HISTORY OF PRINCESS  
K'VANNI'S YOUNG  
KONG...

...CONSIDER THE  
STRANGE AND  
STILL-UNCERTAIN  
NATURE OF ITS  
PARENTAGE.



WE HAVE  
MANY REASONS  
TO BELIEVE HE  
WAS NOT A CHILD  
OF VALLA, THE  
EXILE.

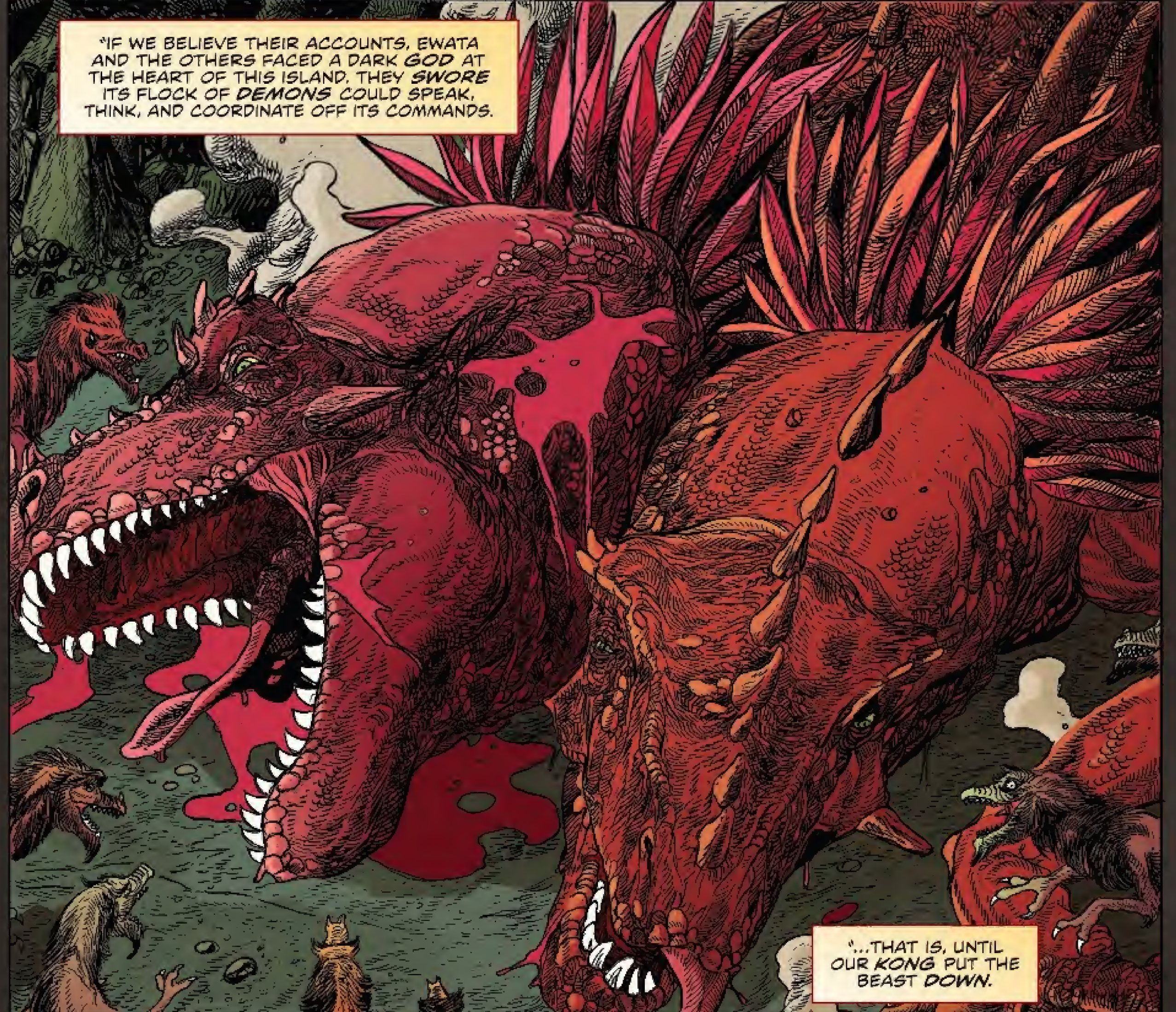
WHICH LEAVES  
US TO ASSUME  
ITS MOTHER IS A  
CREATURE OF  
CONFLICTING MYTHS  
AND FRAGMENTED  
ACCOUNTS...



...A  
GHOST.

THE  
SUPPOSED  
KONG WHO  
WALKS WITH  
DEMONS.





"IF WE BELIEVE THEIR ACCOUNTS, EWATA AND THE OTHERS FACED A DARK GOD AT THE HEART OF THIS ISLAND. THEY *SWORE* ITS FLOCK OF *DEMONS* COULD SPEAK, THINK, AND COORDINATE OFF ITS COMMANDS.

"...THAT IS, UNTIL OUR KONG PUT THE BEAST DOWN.




"IN THE YEARS SINCE, THE DEATHRUNNERS-- AS WE HAVE COME TO CALL THEM--STILL PROVE FAR MORE INTELLIGENT THAN THE OTHER DEMONS OF THIS ISLAND.

"BUT WHILE THEY TRAP, REND, AND *DEVOUR* OUR PEOPLE WHEN THEY CATCH US OFF-GUARD--

"--MORE THAN *ONCE*, THEY WOULD COME AND STAND AT THE FEET OF OUR KONG. AS IF THEY WERE AWAITING ORDERS FROM THEIR *NEW GODS*..."





"...BUT WHILE WE DROVE THEM OUT, MANY SWEAR THE DEATHRUNNERS FOUND A KONG TO FOLLOW BEYOND THE WALL."

"THE FERAL KONG. ONE OF A FEW WHO ESCAPED INTO THE ISLAND IN OUR EARLIEST DAYS HERE."

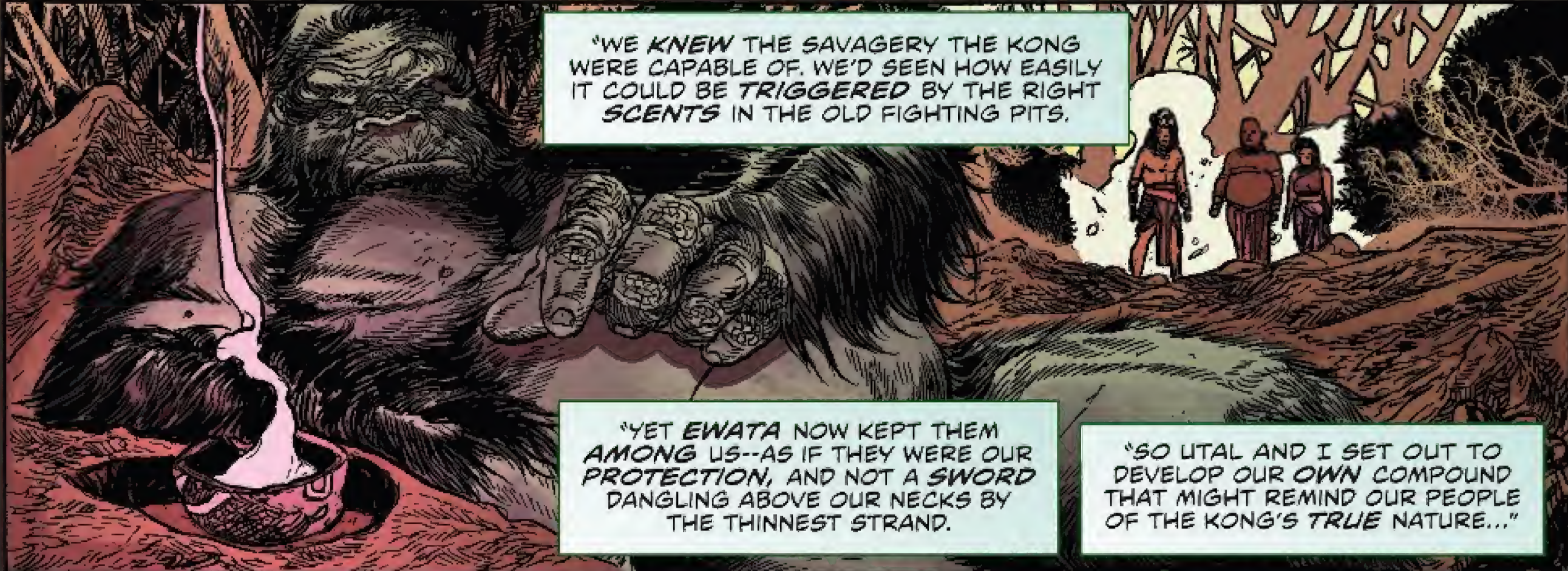


"AS VICIOUS AND TERRITORIAL AS ANY MONSTER IN THIS HELL."

"BUT THE SECRET TRUTH IS--IT ISN'T THE ISLAND THAT MADE IT THIS WAY..."



"...IT WAS US."

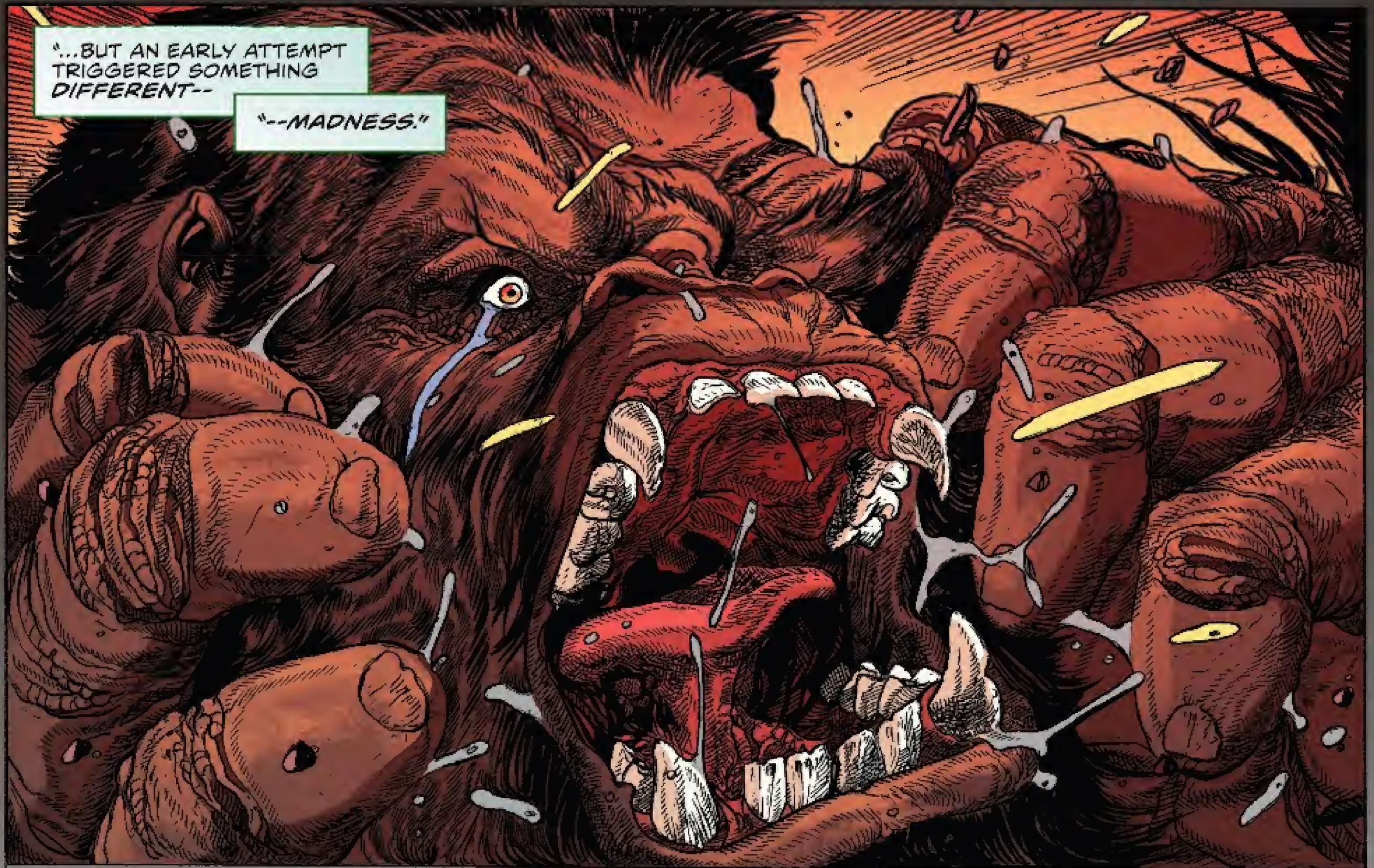


"WE KNEW THE SAVAGERY THE KONG WERE CAPABLE OF. WE'D SEEN HOW EASILY IT COULD BE TRIGGERED BY THE RIGHT SCENTS IN THE OLD FIGHTING PITS."

"YET EWATA NOW KEPT THEM AMONG US--AS IF THEY WERE OUR PROTECTION, AND NOT A SWORD DANGLING ABOVE OUR NECKS BY THE THINNEST STRAND."

"SO LITAL AND I SET OUT TO DEVELOP OUR OWN COMPOUND THAT MIGHT REMIND OUR PEOPLE OF THE KONG'S TRUE NATURE..."





"...BUT AN EARLY ATTEMPT  
TRIGGERED SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT--

"--MADNESS."



SO, IT WORKED--  
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE  
THE COMPOUND  
THEN?

IN ITS RAGE, THE  
GHOST CAUGHT  
AND DEVOURED  
MY NIECE.

EVEN IN OUR WORST  
CONFLICTS, THERE'S NO  
OTHER RECORD OF A  
KONG CROSSING THAT  
LINE. AND I WASN'T  
ABOUT TO GIVE MORE  
THINGS ON THIS  
ISLAND A TASTE  
FOR US.



THANK  
YOU.

BUT I  
BELIEVE,  
B'SAN'S  
POINT IS  
THIS--



--DO  
NOT. MAKE.  
A SOUND.













--WHERE IS  
K'VANNI?!

EWATA--  
LOVE...?

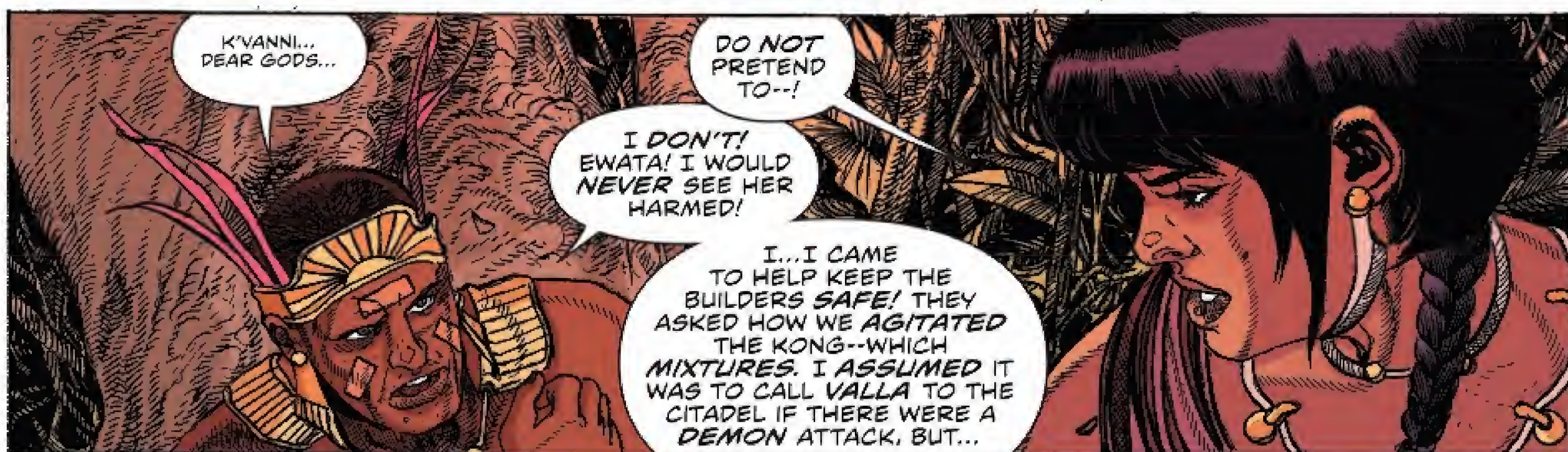
...W-WHAT IS  
HAPPENING?!

YOU WERE  
DELIRIOUS.  
**SHOUTING.**  
I BROUGHT  
YOU OUT HERE  
TO GIVE YOU  
A SIMPLE  
CHOICE--



YOU CAN  
CONTINUE TO  
SIDE WITH THAT  
TREACHEROUS  
CABAL--AND I WILL  
LEAVE YOU FOR  
THE DEMONS.

OR YOU  
TELL ME WHERE AGULIL  
HAS TAKEN MY DAUGHTER  
AND WHAT--PRECISELY--  
HE HAS PLANNED FOR HER.



K'VANNI...  
DEAR GODS...

DO NOT  
PRETEND  
TO--!

I DON'T!  
EWATA! I WOULD  
NEVER SEE HER  
HARMED!

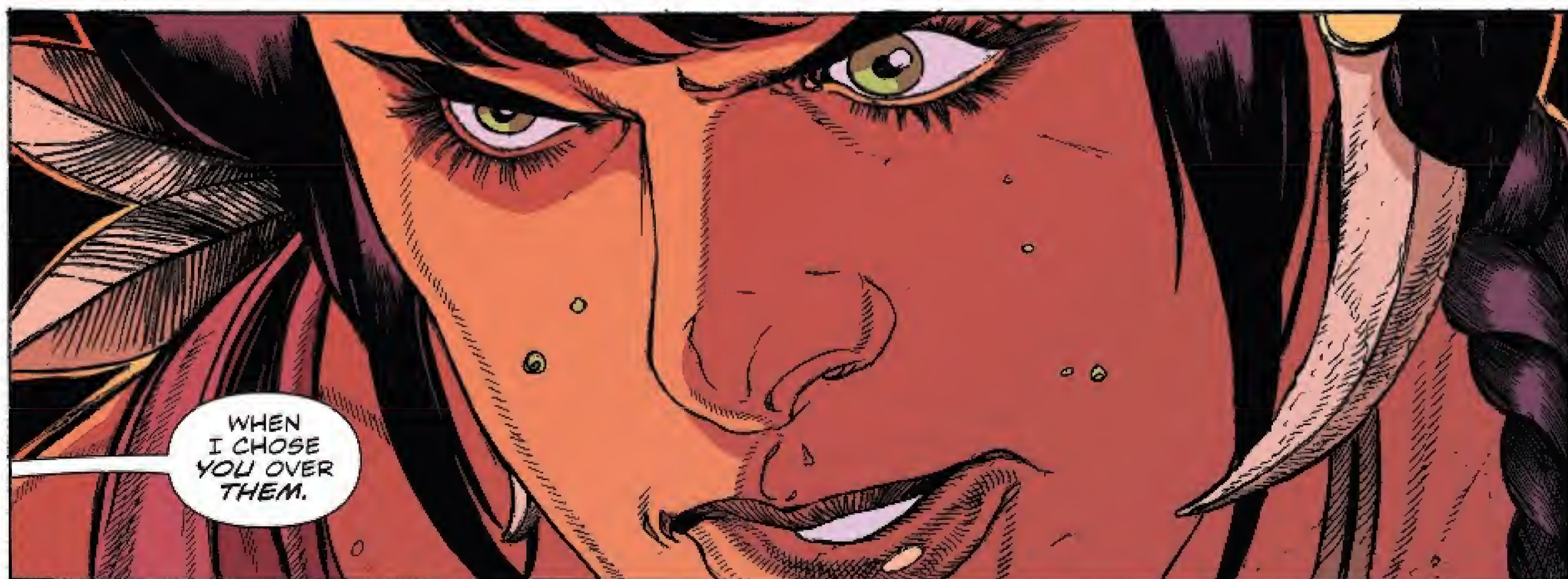
I...I CAME  
TO HELP KEEP THE  
BUILDERS SAFE! THEY  
ASKED HOW WE AGITATED  
THE KONG--WHICH  
MIXTURES. I ASSUMED IT  
WAS TO CALL VALLA TO THE  
CITADEL IF THERE WERE A  
DEMON ATTACK, BUT...



...I WAS AN IDIOT.  
THEY WERE...  
PLANNING  
SOMETHING.

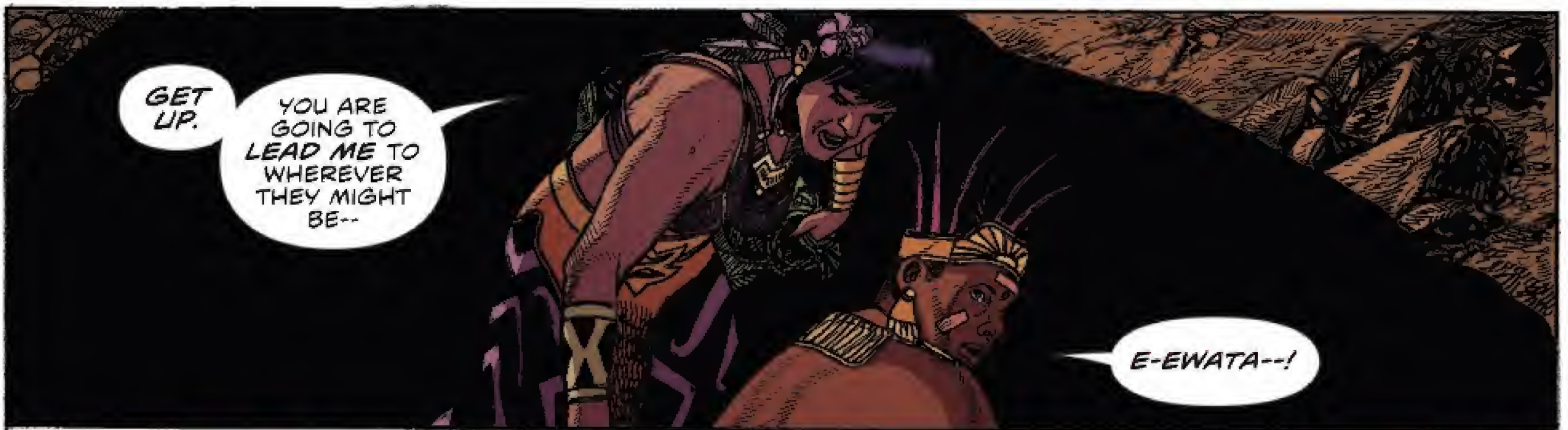
PLANNING  
WHAT?! YOU  
WASTE MY  
TIME WITH--

I DON'T  
KNOW! I SAW...  
MAPS. CAUGHT  
THEM TESTING A  
SCENT-TRIGGER. BUT  
AS SOON AS I  
DID--B'SAN TRIED  
TO KILL ME!



WHEN  
I CHOSE  
YOU OVER  
THEM.





GET UP.

YOU ARE GOING TO LEAD ME TO WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE--

E-EWATA--!



--HRRRGHHH

VALLA?! KONG--?

NO...

KONG, WHERE IS K'VANNI?! YOU SHOULD BE BY HER--

EWATA! STAY BACK!

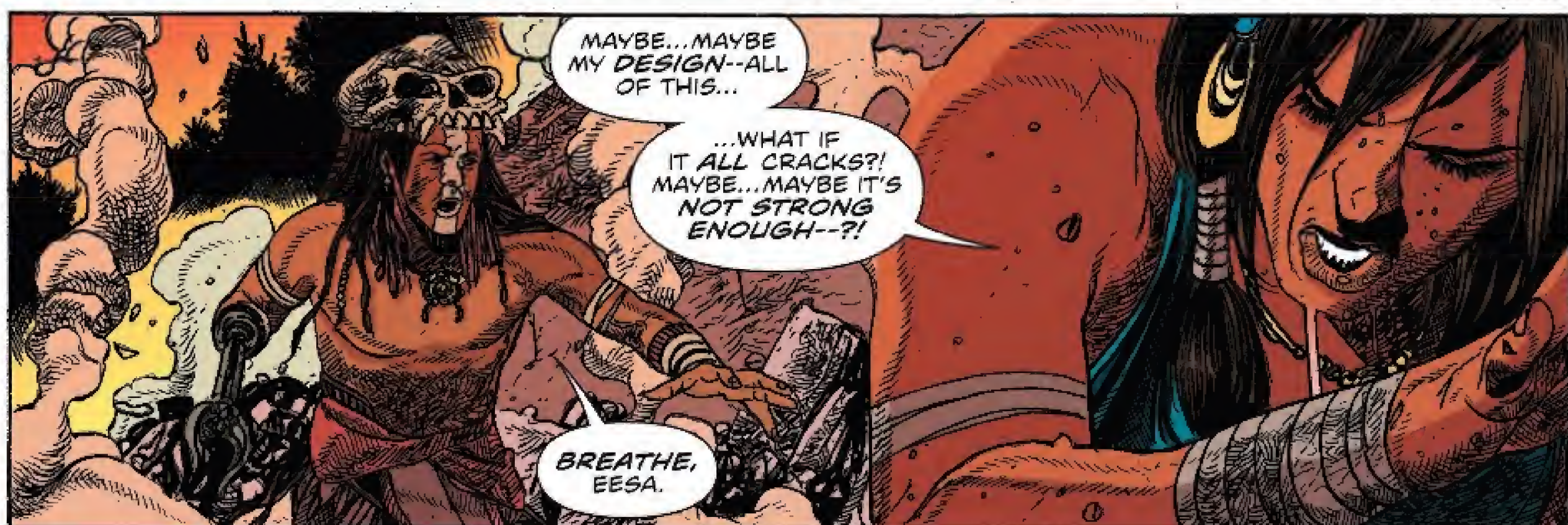
K'VANNI'S KONG--HE'S THE ONE THEY DRUGGED--



--AND HE SLAUGHTERED THEM!

HRRRGAAA!









HHRRA!  
HMM!

NO!  
VALLA--I  
WAS NOT  
THE ONE  
WHO HURT  
HIM!

HOLD!  
ALL OF  
YOU,  
PLEASE!



VALLA. I KNOW I  
AM IN NO POSITION  
TO ASK FAVORS.

BUT I NEED  
GRET AND  
THERE IS NO  
TIME TO--

HRMM!



HMM!  
PFFF!

YES. HE WAS  
DRUGGED.

BY  
BAD MEN.  
MEN WHO ARE  
TRYING TO  
HURT US,  
TOO.



B'SAN. AND  
THE OTHERS. I  
TRIED TO STOP  
THEM!

BUT WHATEVER  
MIXTURE THEY  
CREATED IS MUCH  
STRONGER. THIS  
ONE WAS MORE  
CRAZED THAN  
ANYTHING WE  
TRIGGERED IN THE  
OLD ARENA  
FIGHTS.





THE EFFECTS... SEEM TO HAVE PASSED. VALLA DID YOU--?



GRRA  
AHHWA-WA



YOU WERE LUCKY TO FIND VALLA. THAT SHE KNEW TO WASH OFF THE SCENTS.

BUT IF YOU CAN...

...I THINK I NEED YOUR HELP TO SAVE K'VANNI.



THE MEN WHO HURT YOU, TOOK HER. BUT...

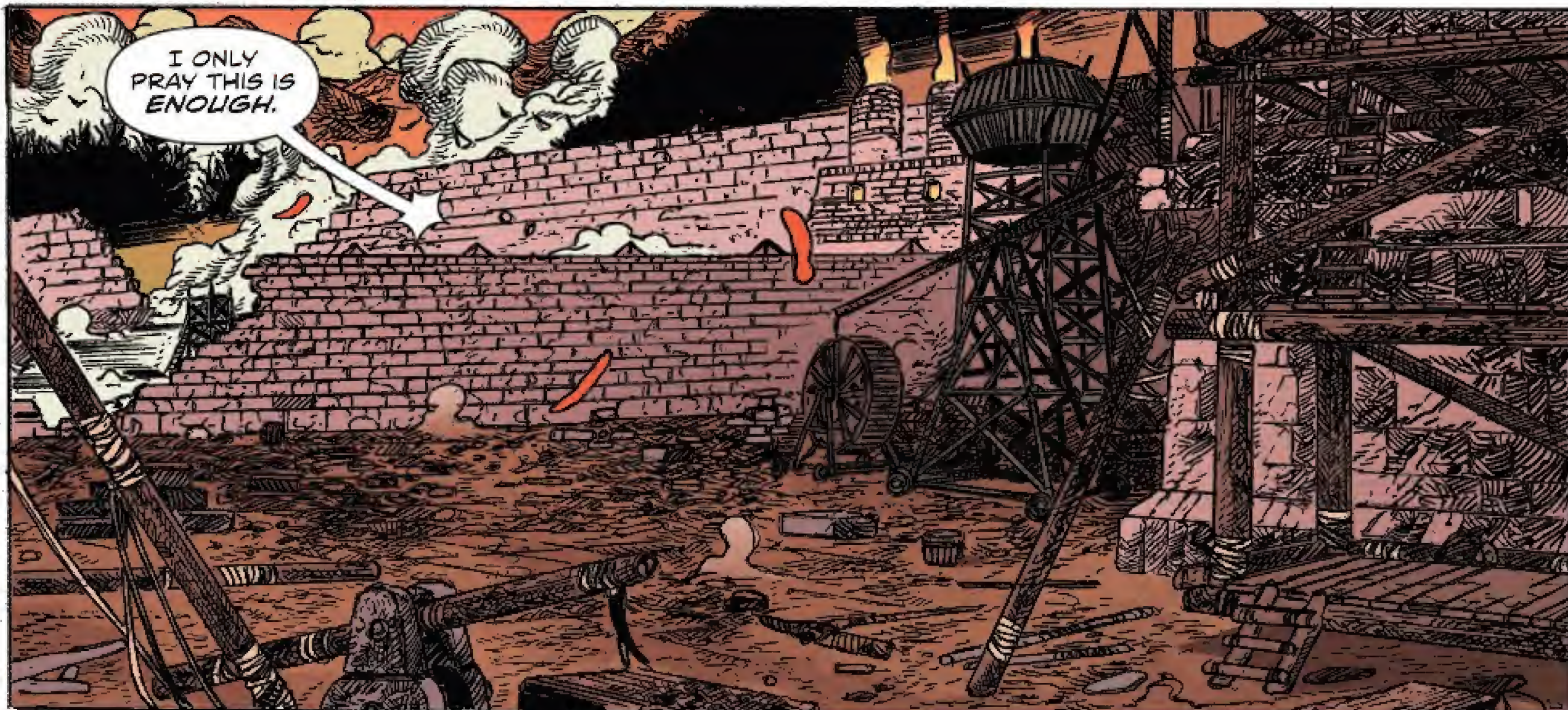
...WHY DEVELOP A NEW KONG TRIGGER? THEY DIDN'T BUILD AN ARENA--THEY BUILT A FORTRESS. AND WHY STEAL K'VANNI OUT HERE!?



OH GODS...

I THINK I KNOW WHAT AGUUL HAS PLANNED.









APPRECIATE  
THIS MOMENT,  
MY FRIENDS.

WE  
ARE ABOUT  
TO CHANGE THE  
COURSE OF OUR  
PEOPLE'S  
HISTORY.

WE ARE ABOUT  
TO SAVE FUTURE  
GENERATIONS.

WE MAY AS  
WELL BE THEIR  
BENEVOLENT  
GODS.





HE IS GOING TO TRIGGER THE KONGS ON THE SHORE!

PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE!



HOW?! IF AGUUL IS IN THE CITADEL--THE WINDS AREN'T EVEN HEADED THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

WHEN AGUUL HAD ME TEACH THE DIFFERENT KONG-TRIGGER MIXTURES FROM OUR FIGHTING PIT DAYS--



"--HE SAID IT WOULD BE TO CALL THE KONG TO FIGHT IF THE CITADEL WERE EVER OVERRUN BY DEMONS.

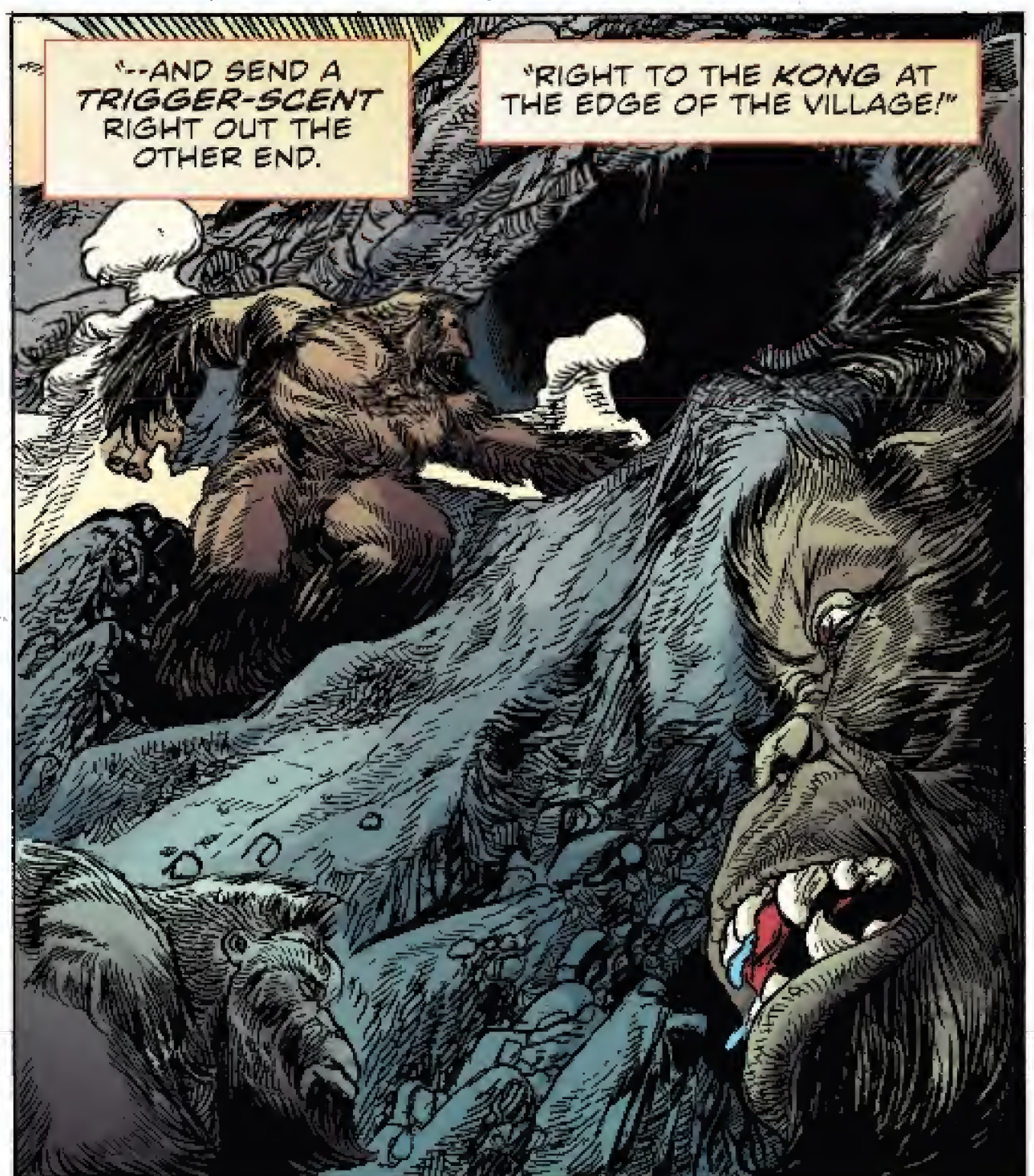
"I ASKED HOW THIS HELPS THEM, WHEN MOST OF THE KONG ARE BACK ON THE SHORE."

YOU HAVE DONE BLESSED WORK, B'SAN.

YOU BRING YOUR HUSBAND'S SPIRIT JUSTICE.



"HE SAID THEY'D BUILT A CONNECTION--A LINE THEY COULD OPEN THAT WOULD PIPE INTO THE MINING TUNNELS--



"--AND SEND A TRIGGER-SCENT RIGHT OUT THE OTHER END.

"RIGHT TO THE KONG AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE!"





THESE PEOPLE--  
HALF OF MY  
COUNCIL--ARE  
PLANNING  
TO...WHAT?

TRIGGER OUR  
LAST FEW  
KONG INTO A  
FIGHT?

NO. I  
THINK THEY WANT  
A SLAUGHTER.



THE PEOPLE  
THERE ARE  
LOYAL TO YOU.  
TO THE CROWN.  
TO THE OLD  
WAYS.

AGUUL  
WANTS TO  
MAKE THEM AS  
SCARED AND  
TERRIFIED BY  
KONG AS HE IS.

NO...  
NO, THIS  
IS...THIS TOO  
MUCH! I  
CAN'T--!!



I CAME  
HERE TO GET  
K'VANNI!

EWATA...  
YOU ARE  
THEIR  
QUEEN!

NO...

...MY  
DAUGHTER  
IS. AND SHE  
NEEDS  
ME.



VALLA. MY  
FRIEND.

I KNOW,  
AFTER THE LAST  
FEW YEARS, I  
HAVE NO RIGHT  
TO ASK FOR YOUR  
HELP...

...BUT YOU ARE  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO CAN REACH  
THE SHORE.  
FAST.

THE  
KONG NEED  
YOU. SAVE  
THEM.



NOW,  
KONG?

LEAD  
ME TO  
K'VANNI.

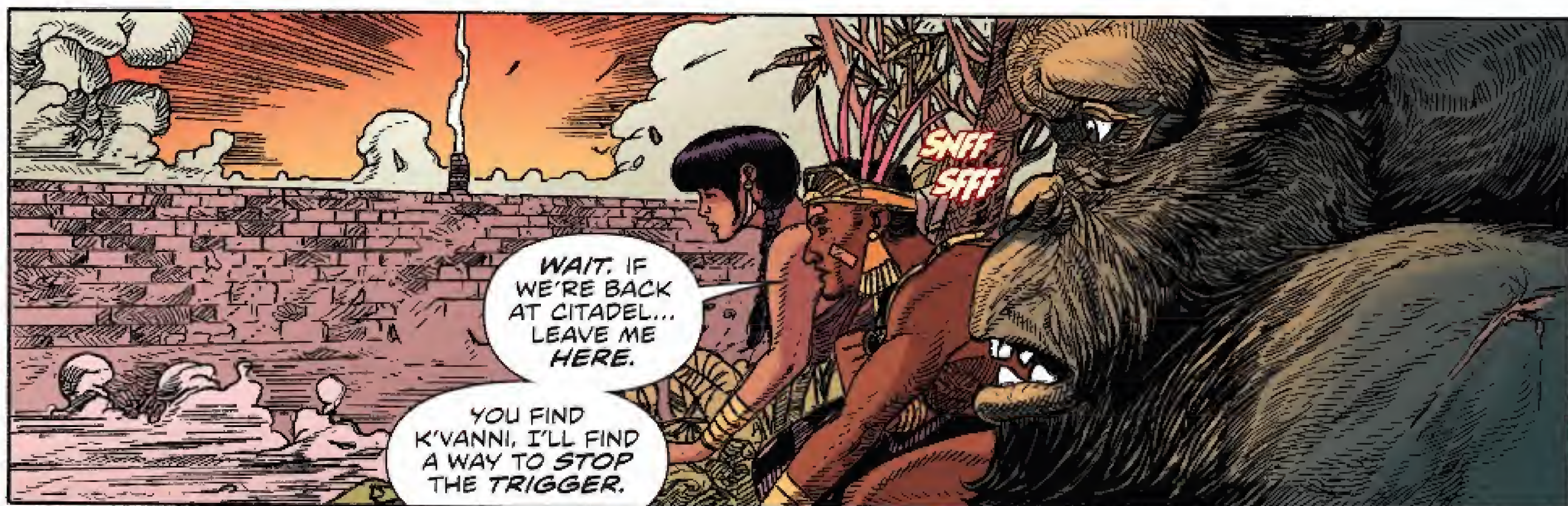
















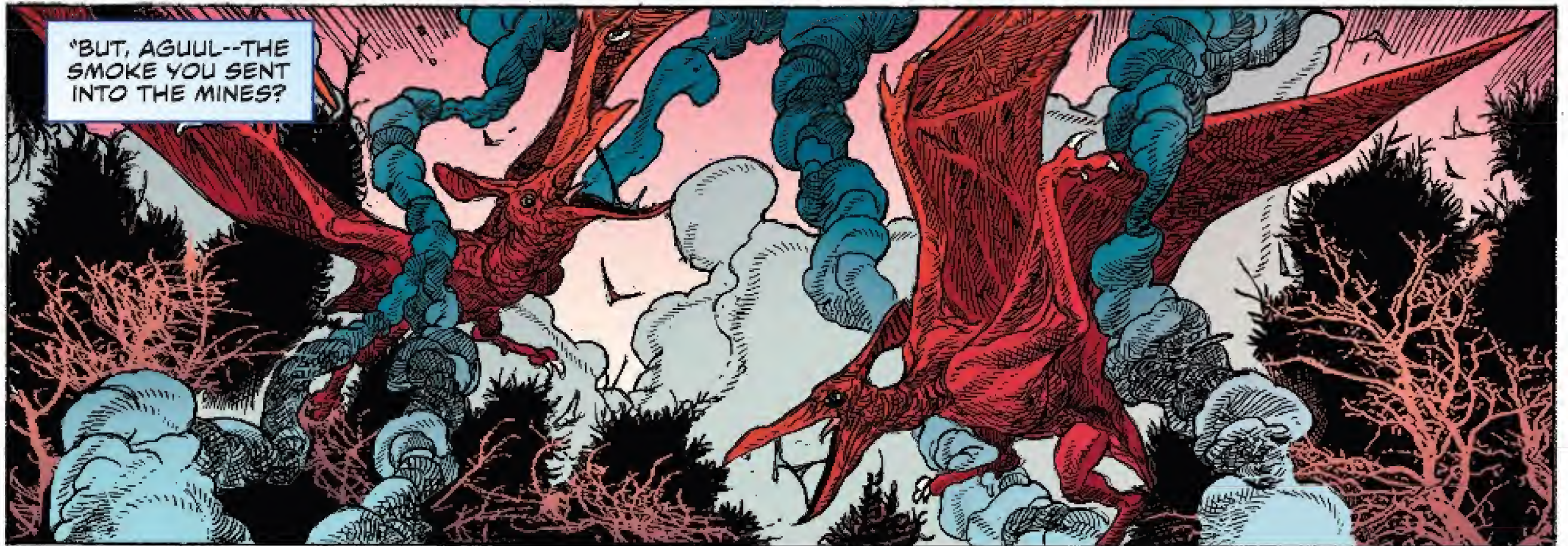
"...IT'S ALREADY  
STARTED?"

LITAL!  
REPORT.

ARMORED  
AND READY,  
AGUUL.

IF THE EXILE  
KONG OR  
QUEEN EWATA  
SHOW THEIR  
FACES--

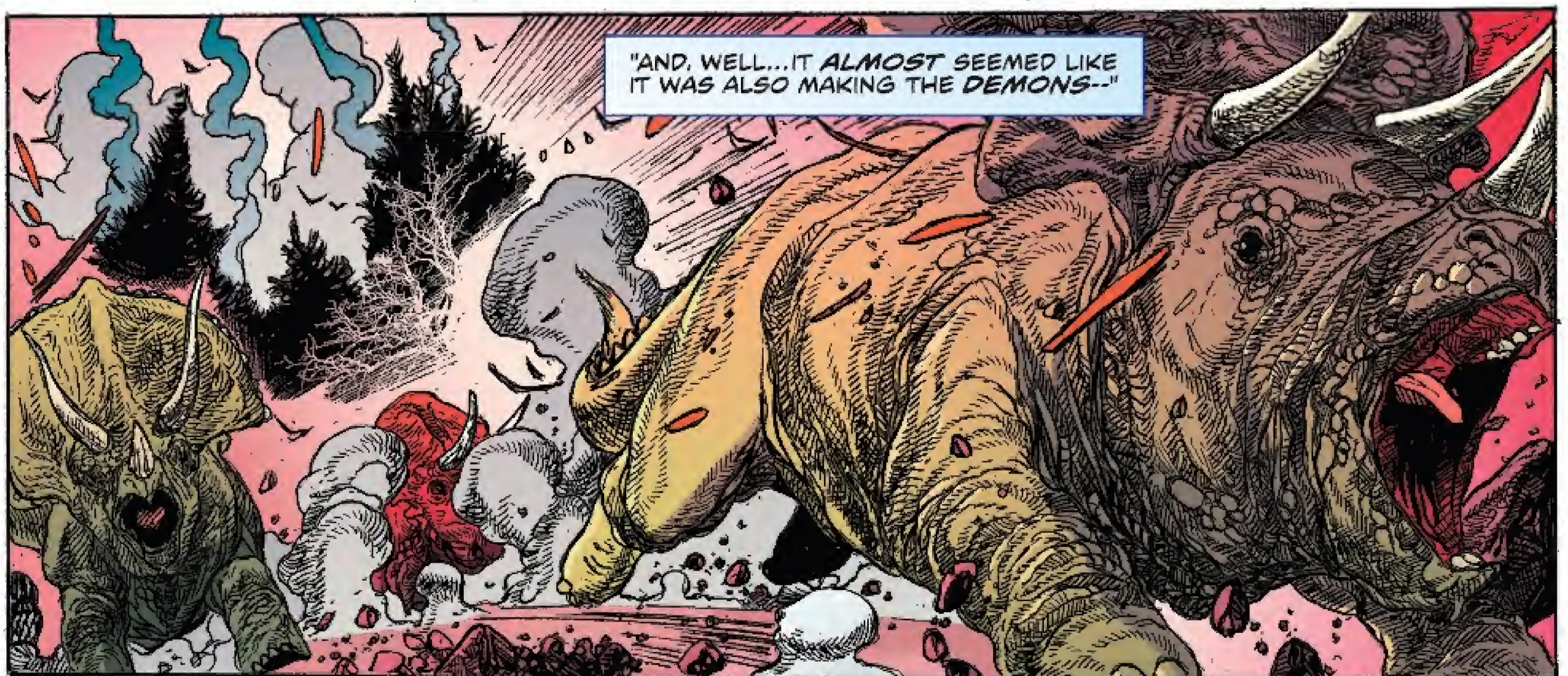
--THESE  
MEN AND WOMEN  
WILL BE HAPPY TO  
GIVE THEM A  
TYRANT'S  
GREETING.



"BUT, AGUUL--THE  
SMOKE YOU SENT  
INTO THE MINES?"

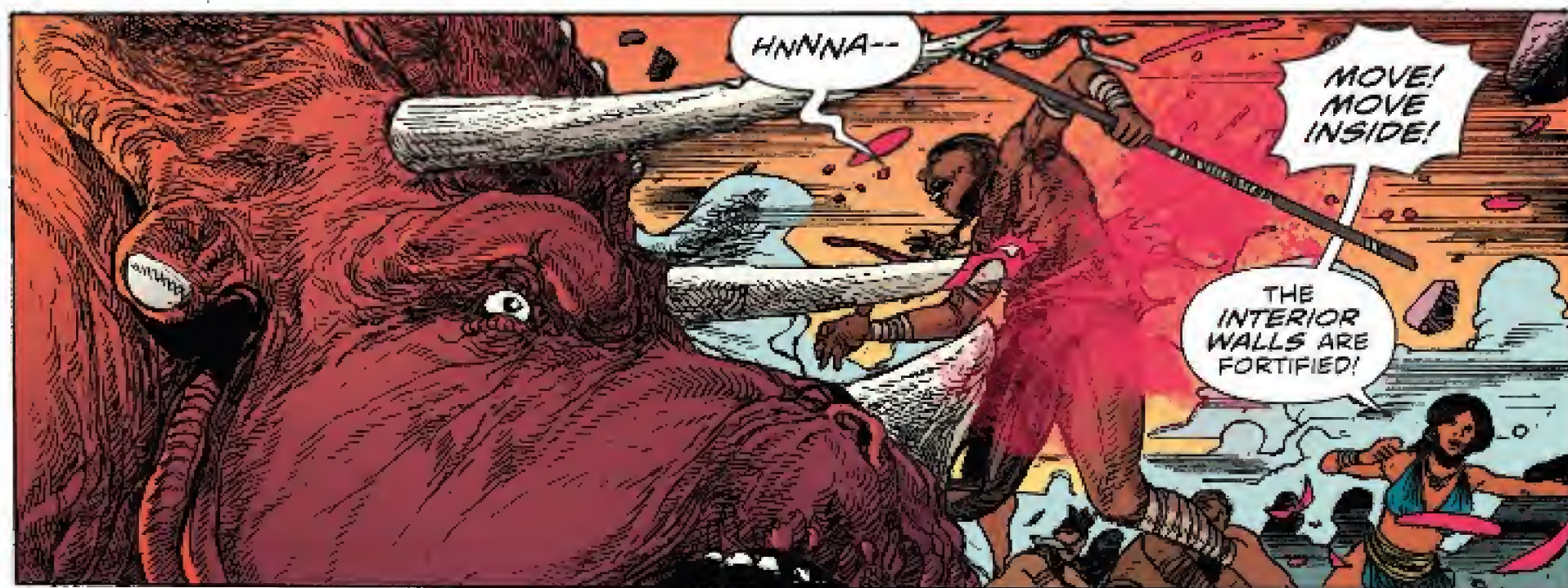


"WE CAN SEE IT RISING FROM  
EVERY CRACK AND AIR POCKET  
FROM HERE TO THE SHORE.



"AND, WELL...IT ALMOST SEEMED LIKE  
IT WAS ALSO MAKING THE DEMONS--"







"--JUST IMAGINE  
WHAT EWATA AND  
HER LOYALISTS  
ARE FACING."



**TO BE CONCLUDED...**



# KONG

## OF SKULL ISLAND™

JAMES ASMUS  
CARLOS MAGNO  
JEREMY LAWSON

NO. 12  
**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS



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THIS MIGHT BE...  
UPSETTING.



AND I HOPE IT  
WILL BE STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
COUNTERACT THE  
SMOKE.

BUT THE  
SMELL IS  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE POTENT.  
TO TRIGGER  
CLARITY.



AND REALLY...  
PUNGENCY IS THE  
LEAST OF OUR  
CONCERNS.

READY?





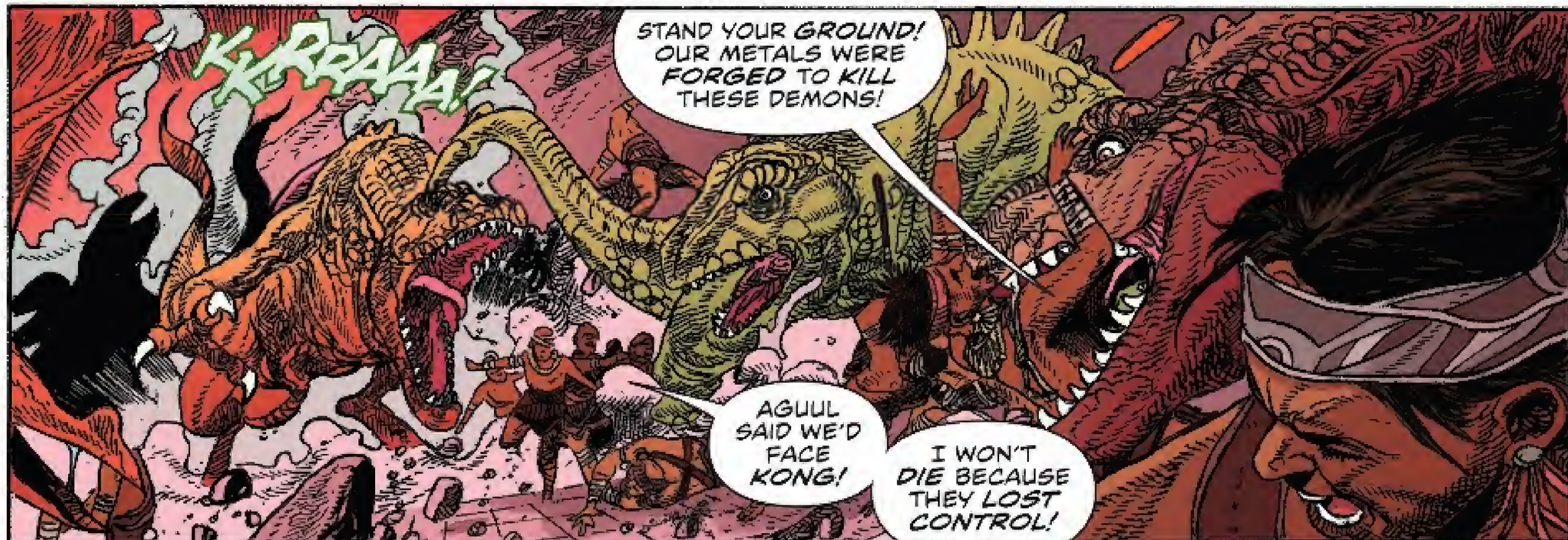
GO!

AND  
DAMN THE  
MONSTERS.

TAKE  
COMFORT  
KNOWING--

--THE  
BASTARDS  
WHO DID ALL  
THIS ARE STUCK  
IN THE CENTER  
OF IT.









--D'AHH!

**THUD**



GOOD. DIE  
AS YOU LIVED,  
FOOL--

--UTTERLY  
OUT OF YOUR  
DEPTH.

**SILK**



AGUUL?  
EWATA--?

JUST...

GET TO  
SAFETY.



"THEY WILL  
NEED US TO  
SURVIVE--"

NO...



"--TO LEAD OUR PEOPLE  
OUT OF THE ASHES.  
AFTER ALL THEY KNOW  
HAS BEEN DESTROYED."

SNFF-  
SFFF--

HMMA-  
MA...

YOUR  
MOTHER?  
SHE DID  
THIS?

IF  
SHE TOOK  
K'VANNI...

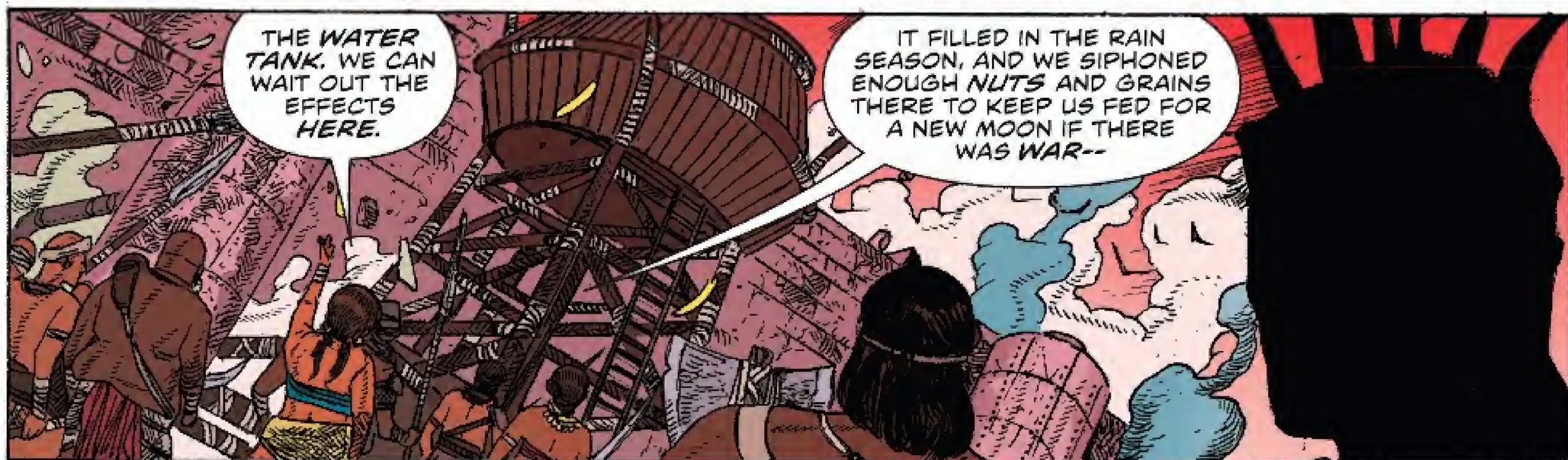
...TAKE  
ME TO  
HER.





OH GODS--THE WALLS--!

ARE MORE FORTIFIED AS WE MOVE IN. WE'LL BE SAFE.



THE WATER TANK. WE CAN WAIT OUT THE EFFECTS HERE.

IT FILLED IN THE RAIN SEASON, AND WE SIPHONED ENOUGH NUTS AND GRAINS THERE TO KEEP US FED FOR A NEW MOON IF THERE WAS WAR--



IF THERE WAS WAR?!

GRET...



YOU LOOK...

UNWELL.

I IMAGINE I DO, EESA.

B'SAN OVER THERE THREW ME INTO A PIT WITH A SMOKE-CRAZED KONG AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD!



WE WOULDN'T HAVE THOSE MONSTERS IF YOU NEVER--

HUSH!

SO...YOU WANT REVENGE?



NO. I WAS THAT SELF-OBSSESSED BEFORE THIS ISLAND...CHANGED THINGS. NOW, I SEE THE NECESSITY OF PRESERVING OUR HUMANITY. COMPASSION.

WHAT I WANT IS TO DESTROY WHAT YOU BUILT HERE, EESA--TOGETHER.





G'AAA!  
KAG-  
GAAA!



--HNNN?

THE  
EXILE!?

GO! BACK  
TO THE  
SHORE!

NO,  
THE REST OF  
THE KONG ARE  
JUST AS  
MAD--

G'AAA  
G'NRRAA!



"--BUT THERE ARE  
MORE OF THEM!"

THE  
KONG--YOU  
HELPED EWATA  
TRAIN  
THEM--WHAT  
TRIGGERED  
THIS?

I--I'M NOT  
SURE...BUT  
WHATEVER  
THAT SMOKE  
IS COMING  
FROM THE  
MINES--



--IT SMELLS  
LIKE THE  
INCENSE WE  
USED IN THE  
FIGHTING  
PITS.

THEN  
HOW CAN  
WE STOP  
IT?



I DON'T KNOW!  
WHERE IS THE  
QUEEN?!

IF ANYONE  
HAS A HOPE  
TO STOP  
THIS, IT'S--



"--VALLA?!?"

"IF SHE'S COME  
BACK, EITHER THE  
GODS ARE  
ANSWERING OUR  
PRAYERS--"

--NARRAGH!



"--OR THEY TRULY  
WANT TO SEE  
EVERYTHING WE  
HAVE DESTROYED."























NO!  
NO--GET  
AWAY!

STAY  
BACK!!

HR-  
HRRT?



G'AW?  
G'AAW  
G'AWW



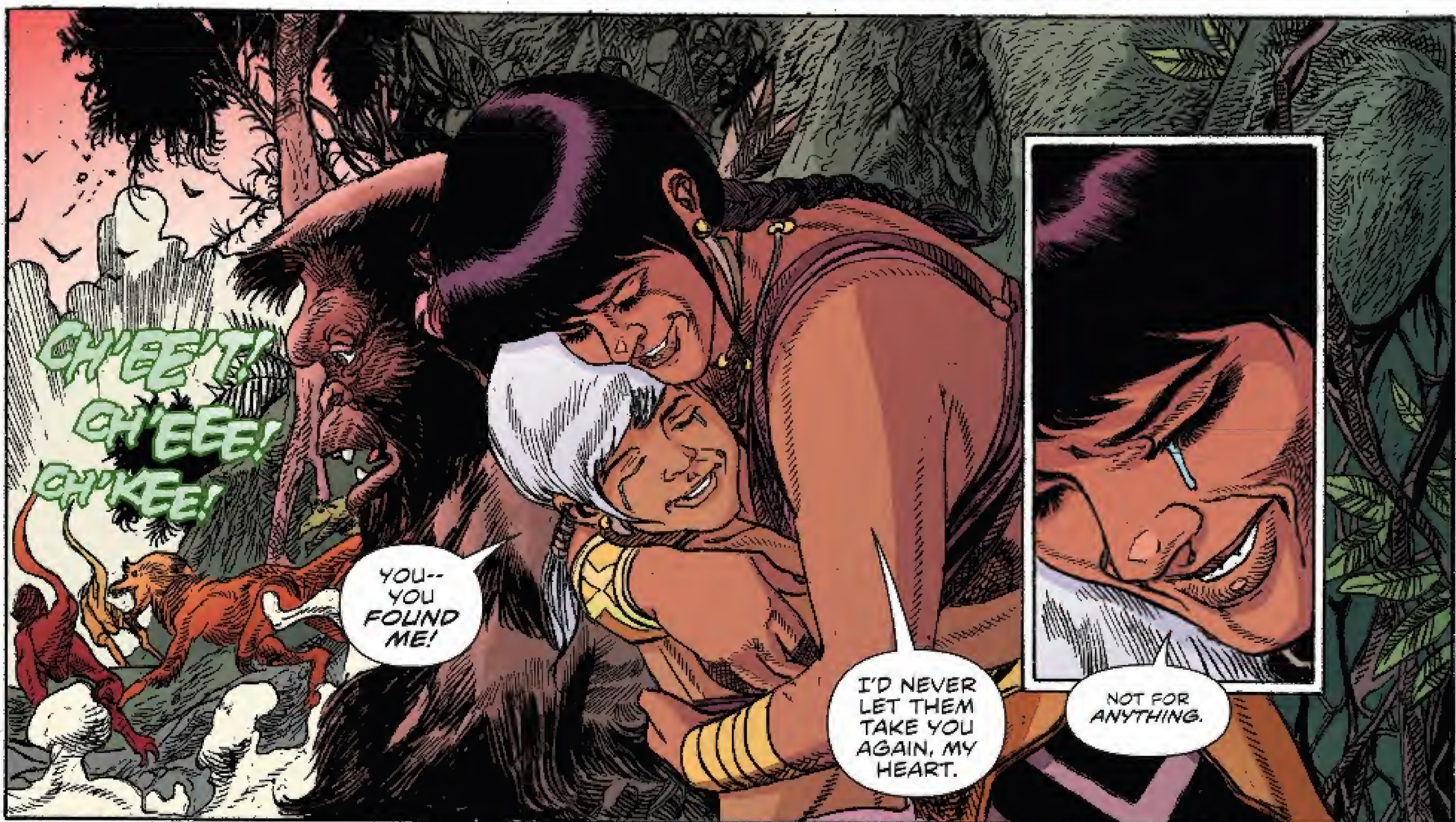
AY! YOU  
COWERING  
DEMONS--

--REMEMBER  
ME?!

I  
KILLED  
YOUR  
GOD!



T'KEE T'KEE--  
T'KEET



CH'EE'T!  
CH'EEE!  
CH'KEE!

YOU--  
YOU  
FOUND  
ME!

I'D NEVER  
LET THEM  
TAKE YOU  
AGAIN, MY  
HEART.

NOT FOR  
ANYTHING.

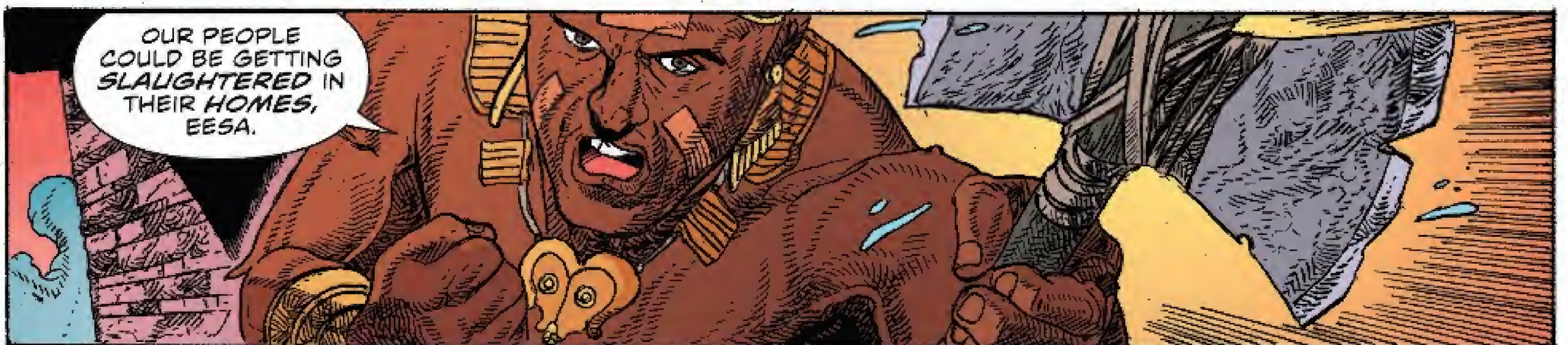




THIS PIPE DROPS STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE BURN PIT?

YES...

...BUT THE TRIGGER SCENTS MUST BE ALMOST BURNT OUT BY NOW! THERE'S NO NEED TO--



OUR PEOPLE COULD BE GETTING SLAUGHTERED IN THEIR HOMES, EESA.



I WOULD TEAR THIS ALL DOWN AROUND US IF IT WERE FASTER.



THERE.

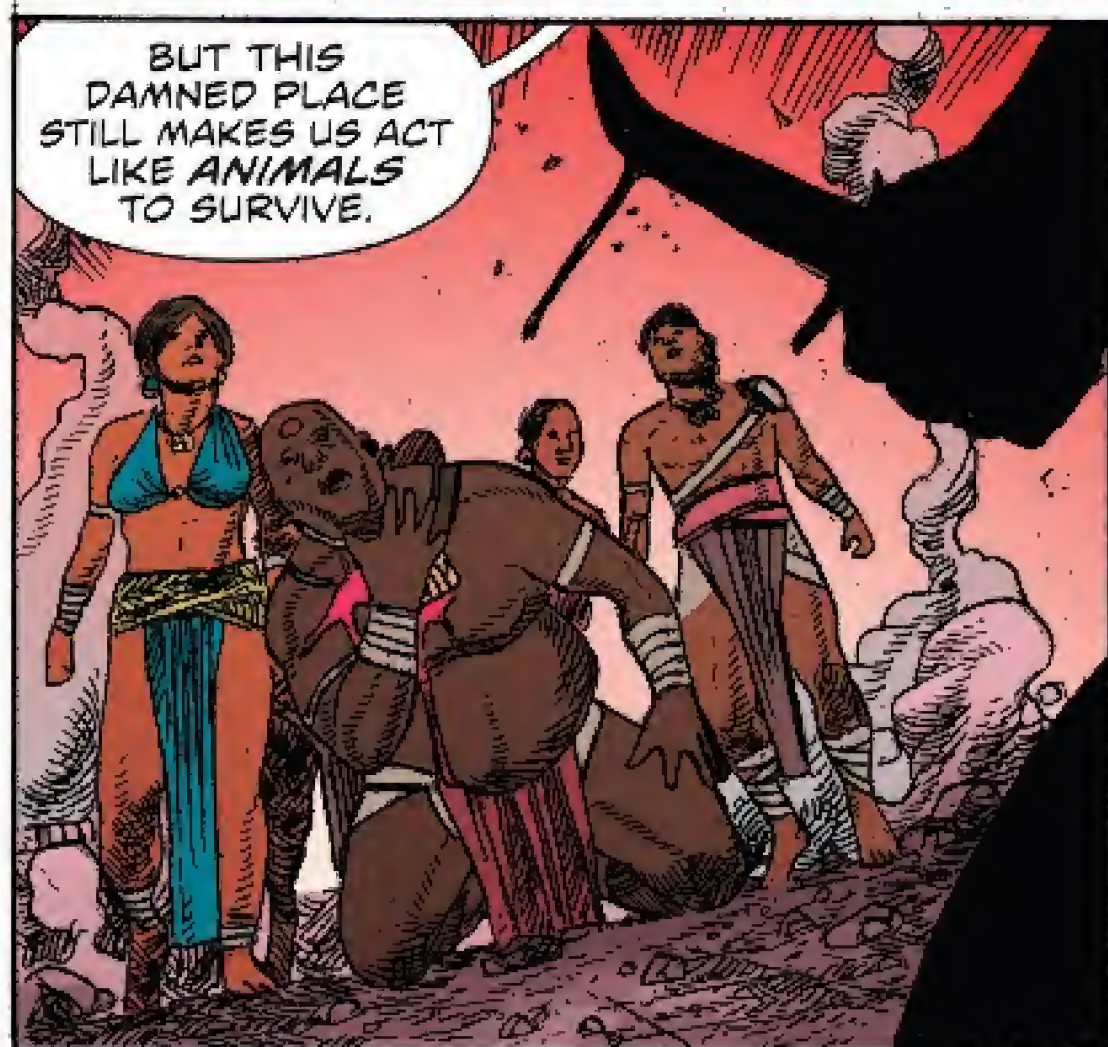
...ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KILL US NOW?

NO. BUT I DUMPED YOUR FOOD STORES SO YOU CAN'T STAY.



YOU WILL COME BACK AND ANSWER TO THE SURVIVORS OF YOUR MADNESS.









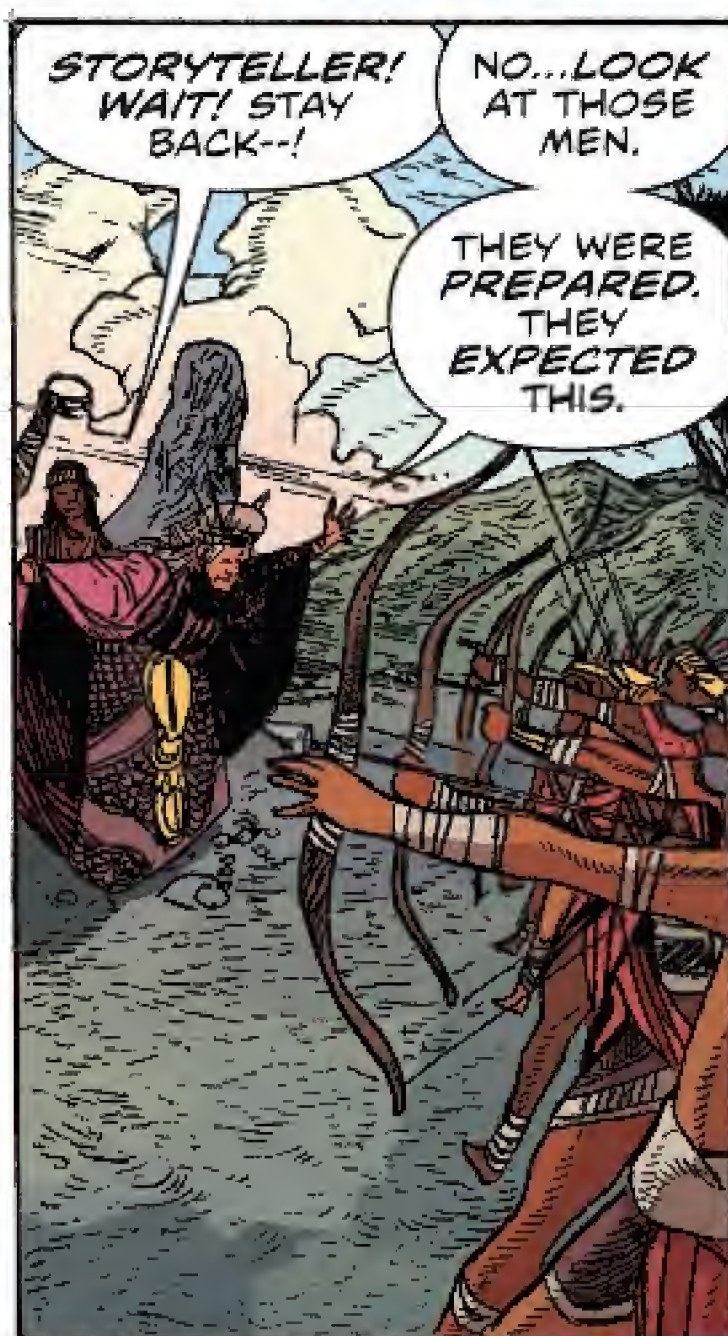
"I PRAY NO  
ONE ELSE  
HAS TO DIE  
TODAY!"

THAT'S--  
THE  
EXILE!



SLAY THE DEVIL THAT  
KILLED A GREAT  
SHAMAN--?

--BLESSINGS  
BE.



STORYTELLER!  
WAIT! STAY  
BACK--!

NO...LOOK  
AT THOSE  
MEN.

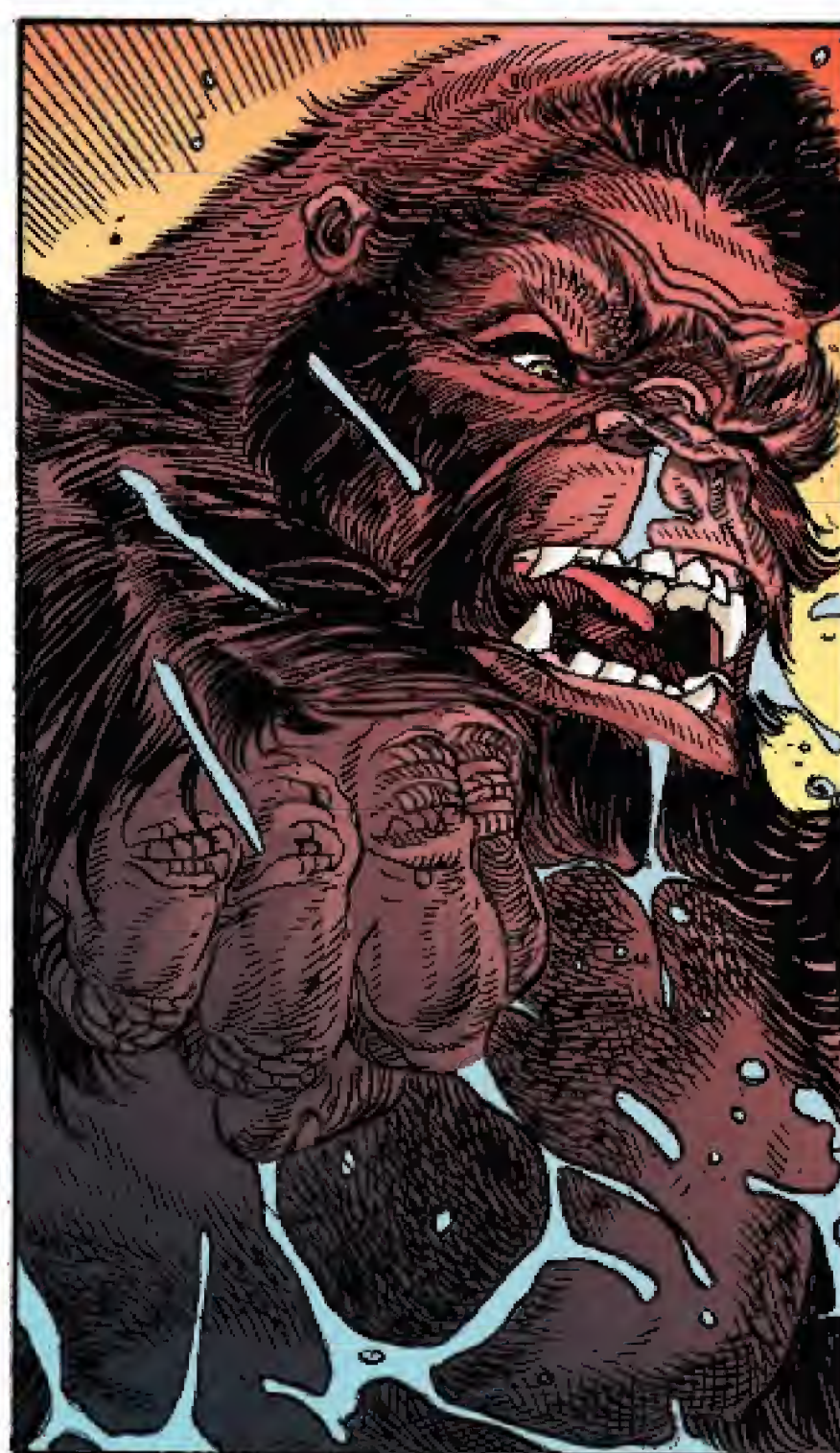
THEY WERE  
PREPARED.  
THEY  
EXPECTED  
THIS.



S-STOP--!

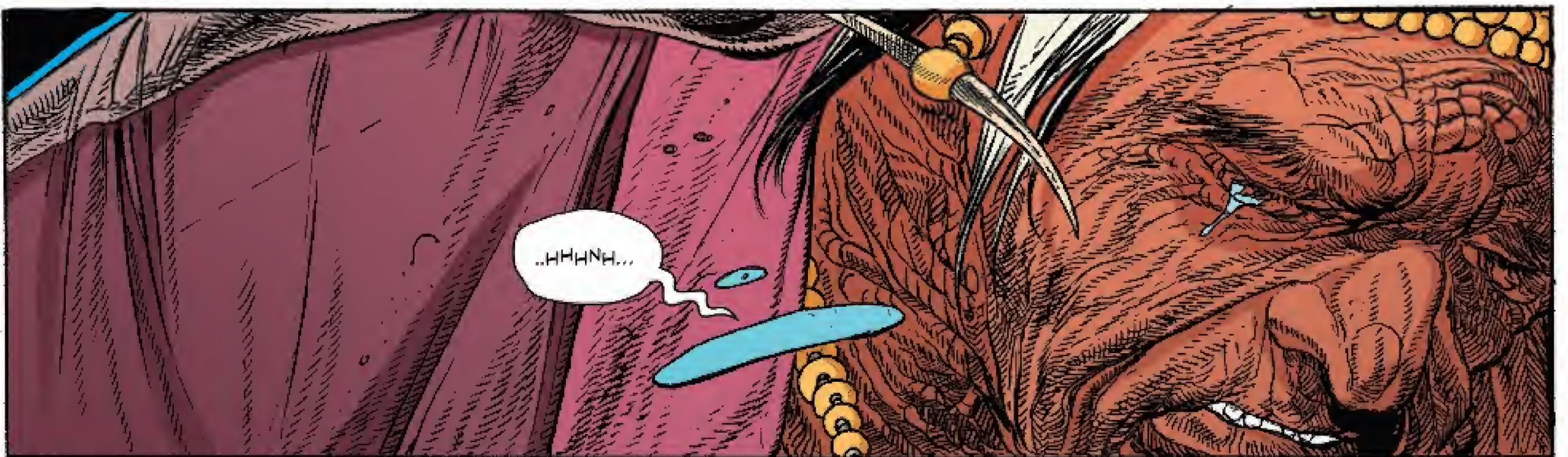
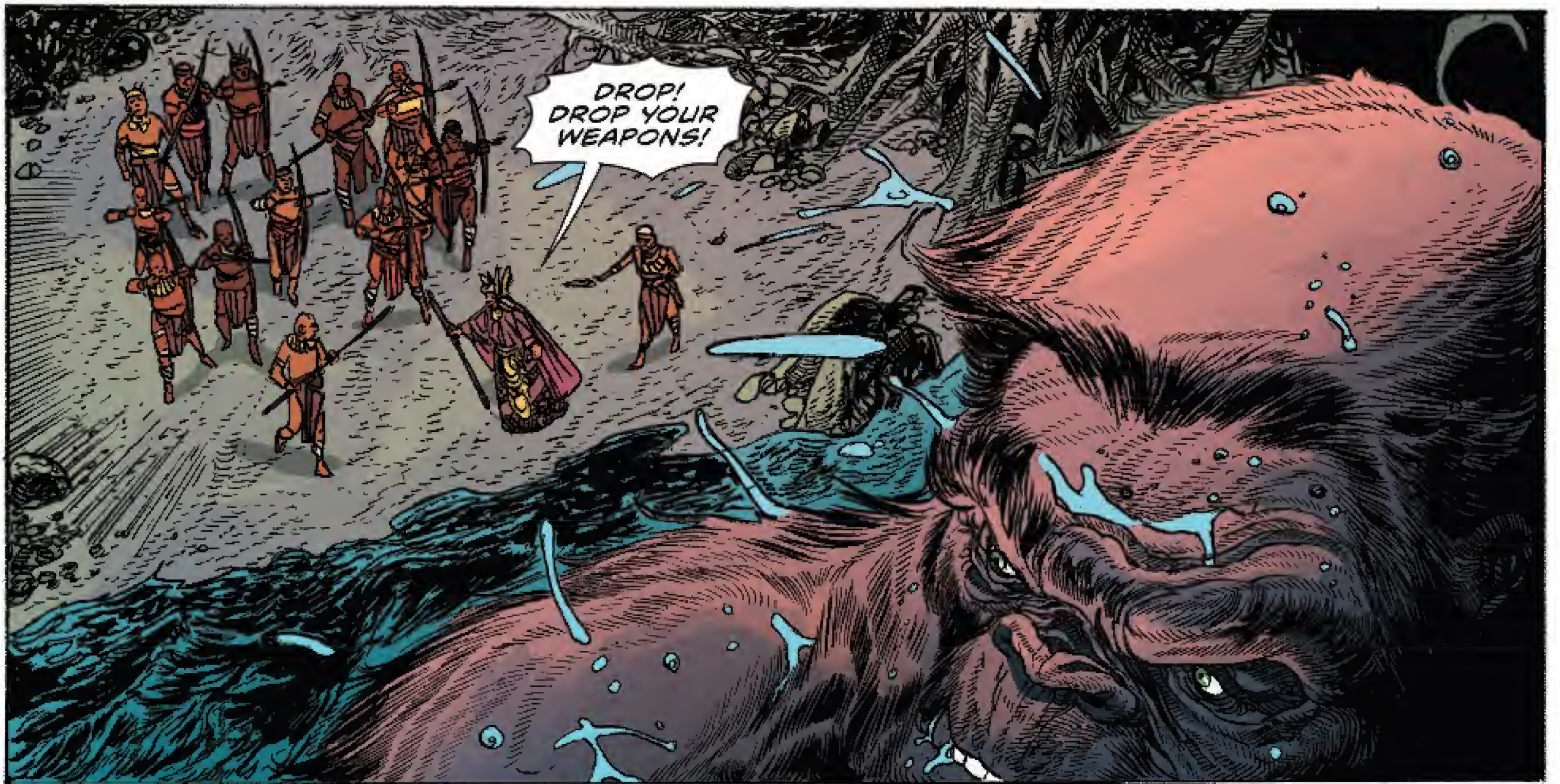


**BLESSINGS BE!**



NO--









IS THIS OUR FATE? TROTTED OUT FOR THE DEMONS TO DEVOUR?

HUSH.



NO. WE ARE HEADED HOME.

YOU DID ALL THIS--TERRIBLE THINGS--BECAUSE YOU FELT I RULED SELFISHLY. BUT YOU USED MY DAUGHTER...

...THERE IS NO PRETENDING I COULD BE IMPARTIAL IN DECIDING YOUR FATES.



SO YOU WILL CONFESS YOUR DEEDS--THE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS...

...AND OUR PEOPLE DECIDE WHETHER YOU DESERVE TO LIVE.



YOU SHOULD THANK YOUR PRINCESS FOR THE STAY OF EXECUTION.

DESPITE THE HORRORS SHE EXPERIENCED TODAY, K'VANNI WANTED... ONLY...



...MERCY...

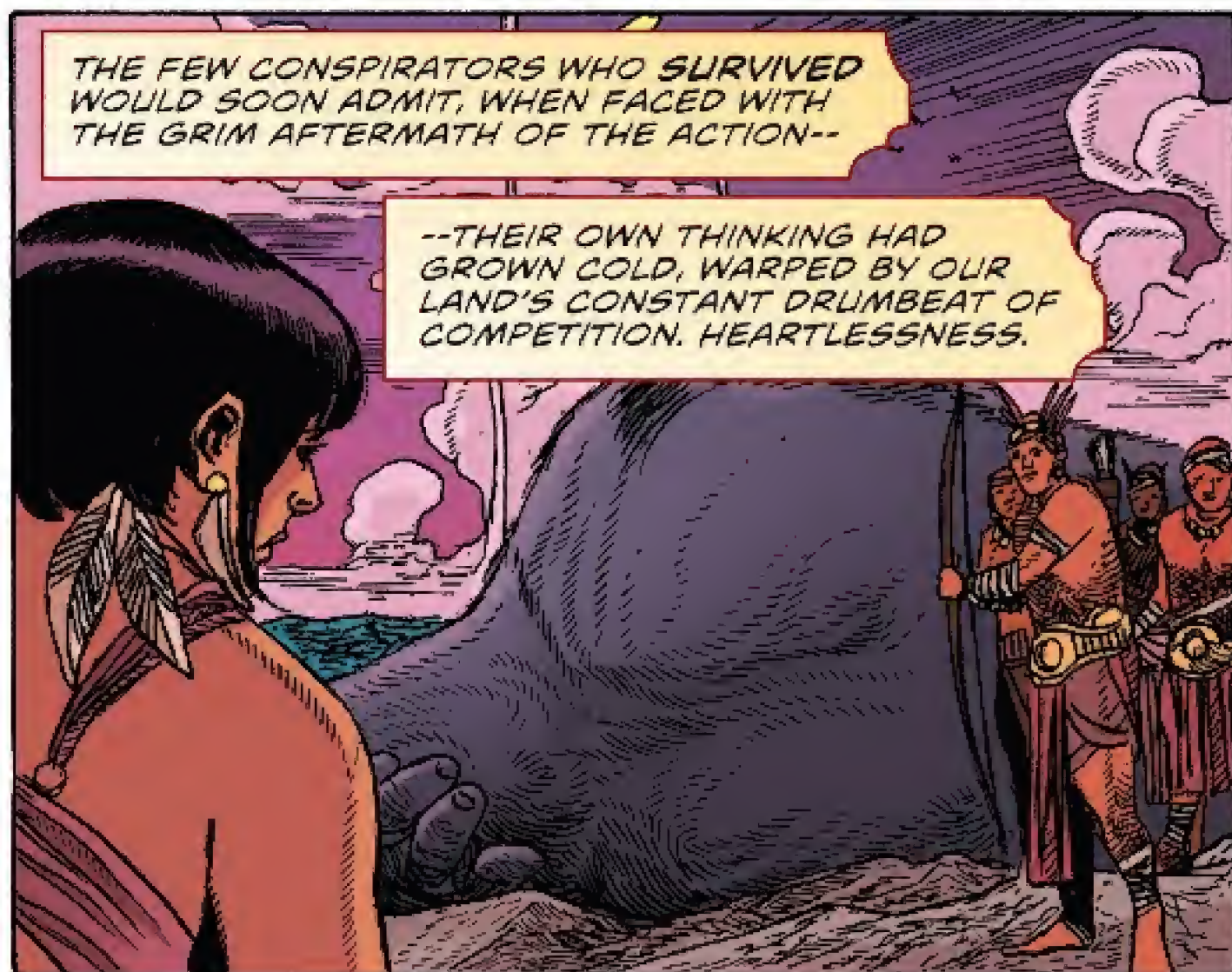
IS THIS THE PRICE WE PAY?





THE SECOND GREAT BATTLE  
OF OUR NEW HOME WAS NOT  
WITH THE DEMONS.

IT WAS WITH  
OUR OWN  
HUMANITY.



THE FEW CONSPIRATORS WHO SURVIVED  
WOULD SOON ADMIT, WHEN FACED WITH  
THE GRIM AFTERMATH OF THE ACTION--

--THEIR OWN THINKING HAD  
GROWN COLD, WARPED BY OUR  
LAND'S CONSTANT DRUMBEAT OF  
COMPETITION. HEARTLESSNESS.



INDIFFERENCE  
TO DEATH.




THE PAIN OF LOSS  
HAD MADE THEM  
NUMB. VINDICTIVE.

M-MY  
QUEEN...?

...WE NEVER  
INTENDED FOR  
THIS.


UNTIL THEY CAUSED  
A PAIN THAT ATE INTO  
THEIR BONES THE  
SAME AS OURS.





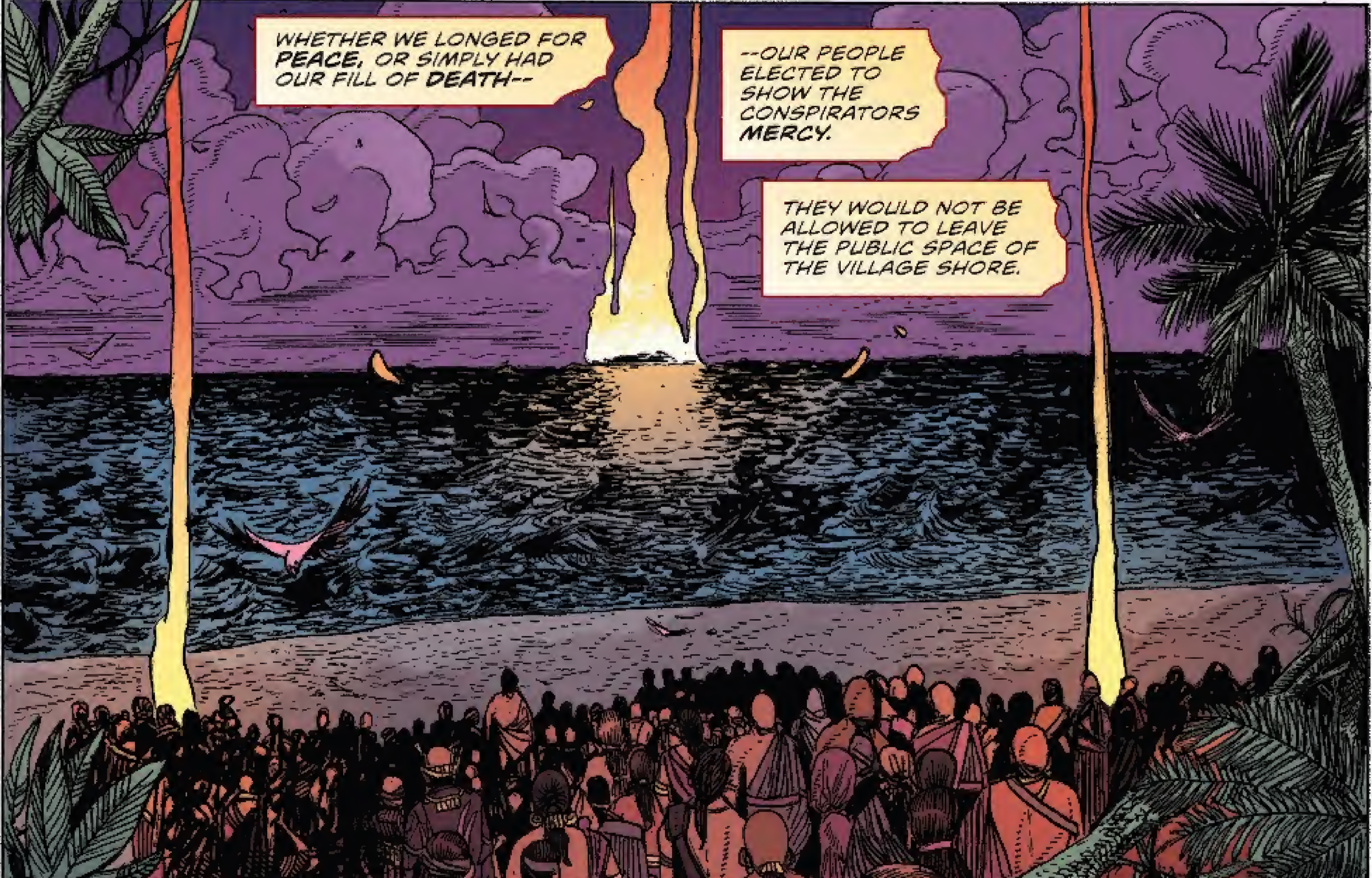
IF THERE IS ANY  
BENEFIT TO KEEPING  
HISTORY, TELLING  
STORIES--

--IT IS THAT YOU MAY  
LEARN FROM SUFFERING,  
WITHOUT HAVING TO  
ENDURE IT YOURSELF.



WHEN WE NURSE OUR  
DIVISIONS, THEY WILL  
ONLY GROW UNTIL WE ARE  
TORN APART IN TRAGEDY.

AND RETURNED  
TO EACH OTHER  
IN GRIEF.



WHETHER WE LONGED FOR  
PEACE, OR SIMPLY HAD  
OUR FILL OF DEATH--

--OUR PEOPLE  
ELECTED TO  
SHOW THE  
CONSPIRATORS  
MERCY.

THEY WOULD NOT BE  
ALLOWED TO LEAVE  
THE PUBLIC SPACE OF  
THE VILLAGE SHORE.





WHILE SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE CALLED 'MERCY' DROVE US TO EXILE ALL OF THE KONG INTO THE ISLAND.

THERE WERE MANY AMONG US WHO STILL REVERED OUR KONG, FOR THEIR LABORS. PROTECTION. SACRIFICE.



BUT THERE WERE MORE WHO FEARED WHAT THE BEASTS WERE CAPABLE OF.

PERHAPS IT IS OUR NATURE TO MORE READILY PUNISH CREATURES DIFFERENT FROM US.

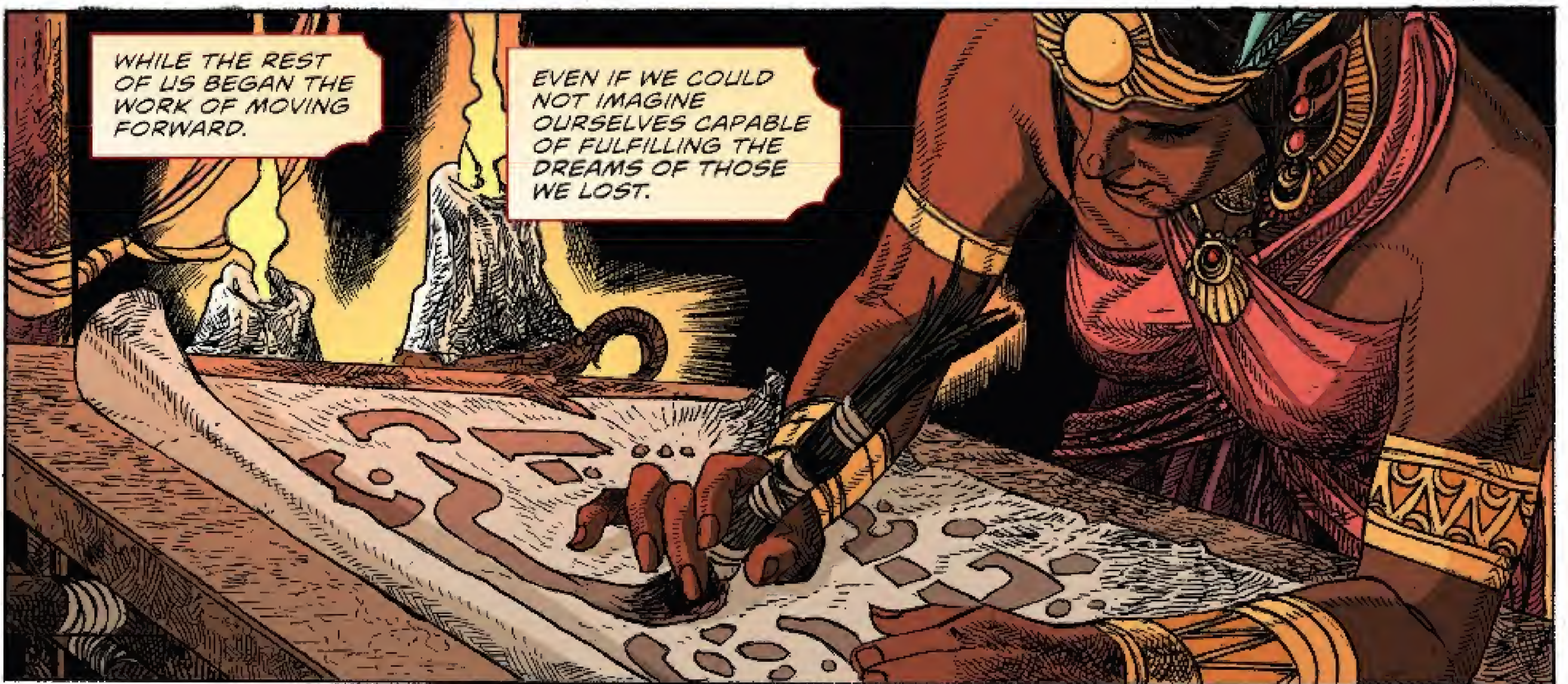


THE WARY AMONG US HOPED TO KEEP THE KONG'S FAVOR AND PROTECTION FROM DEMONS WITH OFFERINGS...



...BUT NO KONG RETURNED.

HNNN... DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER A DIFFERENT KIND OF OFFERING...?



WHILE THE REST OF US BEGAN THE WORK OF MOVING FORWARD.

EVEN IF WE COULD NOT IMAGINE OURSELVES CAPABLE OF FULFILLING THE DREAMS OF THOSE WE LOST.



ONCE SPIRITS AND MATTERS SETTLED, EWATA  
PLEAD FOR HER DAUGHTER'S FORGIVENESS,  
FOR ANY BLINDNESS OR STUBBORNNESS  
THAT PUSHED K'VANNI INTO DANGER.

BUT THE PRINCESS  
UNDERSTOOD HER  
MOTHER'S CHOICES,  
EVEN HER MISTAKES.

AND SUCH GENEROSITY  
AND COMPASSION ONLY  
PROVED TO EWATA--

--THAT HER  
DAUGHTER  
DESERVED  
HER PEOPLE'S  
CROWN.

SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN  
SINCERE IN HER RESPECT  
FOR ALL HER PEOPLE'S  
BELIEFS.

IN RETURN, THE  
PEOPLE SAW A  
CHILD OF THIS NEW  
HOME UNBURDENED  
BY LOSS--

BUT HARROWED,  
ACCEPTING, AND  
CLEAR-EYED AS  
SHE LOOKS TO  
THE FUTURE.

AS THEIR NEW  
QUEEN.


AND EWATA WOULD  
BE HER SWORD.

**BLESSINGS BE!  
BLESSINGS BE!**

BLESSINGS  
BE! WITH THE GOD  
OF THE TAGU, AND  
ALL THE GODS OF  
THE ATU--OLD  
AND NEW!

AND WITH HER INFLUENCE,  
K'VANNI ENSURED KONG  
WOULD BE TREATED,  
FEARED, AND PROTECTED--





--LIKE A GOD.

**THE END**